

16,000 private sector steelmen strike but leaders are likely to obey Denning order

Iron and Steel Trades Confederation leaders are expected to rescind their strike order to private sector workers today, obeying Lord Denning's ruling.

Leave sought for plea to Law Lords

By Paul Routledge
Labour Editor

Leaders of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation are expected this afternoon to obey the Court of Appeal and rescind their strike injunction to private sector steelworkers, but many strikers and placards may continue the industrial action.

Lawyers for the union yesterday submitted a petition to the Law Lords asking for leave to appeal against Lord Denning's ruling that the ISTC executive must withdraw its strike call. The application will be considered on Thursday, and if it is granted, the appeal will be heard the day after.

While these legal moves were in train yesterday, an estimated 16,000 private sector members of the union defied the Court of Appeal and stopped work in 43 of the industry's 44 plants. ISTC officials believe that many will stay out unofficially even if the executive goes back on its attempt to spread the month-old steel shutdown.

Shop stewards at Ductile Steel in the West Midlands sent a telegram to the union's general secretary, Mr William Sirs, urging: "Keep up the fight, 100 per cent behind you." Similar messages of militancy came from workers at other private sector companies, where the strike instruction was originally thought to be deeply unpopular.

The Court of Appeal decision appears to have intensified feelings in the strike. There were emotional scenes in Cardiff, where miners, railwaymen, transport workers and other trade unionists joined the striking steelmen in a day of protest that brought South Wales to a virtual standstill.

TUC leaders, anxious to avert the threat of an unlimited shutdown of industry in the area from March 16 over the British Steel Corporation's closure plan, have now said they can put their arguments about the financial crisis of the industry to senior Cabinet ministers on Thursday.

The TUC General Council has threatened "the most serious industrial consequences" if BSC does not open early consultations with the unions on "a reasonable accommodation" of the separate dispute about redundancies in steel steel this year.

Mr Len Murray, general secretary of the TUC, yesterday heard a progress report from union negotiators for craft and

general workers in British Steel, who have made considerable progress in talks with the corporation on the structure of a pay and productivity deal.

Leaders of the two main steel unions, the ISTC and the National Union of Blastfurnace men, have so far refused to take part in these negotiations because BSC's amended offer does not meet their precondition of "money on the table".

British Steel is understood to have withdrawn its insistence on a written guarantee that the unions accept a cut of 12,000 jobs in return for the initial 8 per cent of its pay offer. There is also a strong hint that an extra one or two per cent might be available under that heading.

But these negotiating developments are unlikely to cut much ice among the 21-member executive committee of the ISTC, which meets today to consider the Court of Appeal's injunction against the private sector strike.

It was being pointed out last night that the Denning injunction applies only to the 16 firms named on the application, whereas nearly three times that number were strikebound.

The court's order on picketing also applies only to the steelworkers' executive, not to local strike committees or to other unions that are officially involved in the strike. It is clear that the ISTC leaders will grudgingly obey the letter of the law, but turn a blind eye to unofficial measures.

Ronald Pershaw writes from Sheffield. South Yorkshire leaders of the four trade unions most involved in the steel strike said yesterday that they intend to continue picketing companies in the private sector and strike action until union demands are met, irrespective of any instruction from the national executive of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation.

Our Industrial Editor writes: The effects of the strike, now entering its fifth week, are being felt by manufacturing industry.

Mr Michael Marshall, Under Secretary of State for Industry, said yesterday that in the two weeks ended January 12 and January 19 production in manufacturing industry had been reduced by between 2 and 3 per cent below expected levels.

Most of that, he added, was attributable to BSC's own lack of production.

Ignore ruling by Court of Appeal, Mr Scargill says

By Nicholas Timmins

Mr Arthur Scargill, president of the Yorkshire miners, said yesterday that the Court of Appeal's ruling, banning the extension of the steel strike to the private sector, should be ignored.

The ruling was deplorable, he said. Lord Denning (Master of the Rolls) has given a judgment which is in line with Conservative Party philosophy and trade union members involved in this dispute should recognize that.

"They have a simple choice to make. They either accept the decision of three men in wigs sitting in a remote part of

London, or accept the advice and instruction of their trade union."

"I hope they accept the advice of their trade union, come out on strike, continue to picket, and win their dispute."

Mr Scargill was speaking after the Yorkshire area executive of the National Union of Mineworkers, meeting in Barnsley, had decided to black steel delivered to collieries and coal board workshops. The National Coal Board said: "We regret this attempt to involve the coal industry in a dispute to which neither the NUM nor the coal board are parties."

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Photograph by Harry Kerr

Strike leader ready to go to prison

By Tim Jones and Donald Macintyre

Strikers attending the largest political rally Wales has witnessed since the war yesterday roared their defiance of the Government after being told by Mr William Sirs, general secretary of the biggest steel union, that he and two colleagues could be imprisoned unless they obey the Court of Appeal decision to prevent the dispute spreading to the private sector.

During an emotionally charged rally, Mr Sirs broke into tears as he was welcomed as a hero by some of the 100,000 men whose one-day strike paralysed ports, railways, mines and public transport throughout Wales.

Mr Sirs said: "We have found our today there is a penal clause in the judgment. Unless my executive makes this decision I will follow whatever it is. I have no intention of letting down my union or the working class in general."

Asked afterwards whether he would go willingly to prison, Mr Sirs said: "I am fighting for the working class and I do not care what happens."

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Civil Service action warning

The Civil and Public Services Association, the largest Civil Service union, is drawing up contingency plans to take industrial action if the Government does not pay in full salary increases proposed after a comparison exercise with private industry.

The 1980 Pay Research Unit investigation suggested increases of between 15 and 20 per cent

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Continued on page 2, col 8

Saudi oil price rise

Saudi Arabia, in a surprise move, has increased the price of its crude oil by \$2 to \$26 a barrel. Oil companies said it could raise the price of four-star petrol by 2p a gallon.

Continued on page 4

Continued on page 2, col 8

HOME NEWS

Speaker intervenes as angry Labour MPs attack Lord Denning's steel dispute ruling

By George Clark
Political Correspondent

Labour MPs who claimed to represent trade union opinion expressed anger yesterday about the Court of Appeal's decision on the steel strike and about the views of Lord Denning, Master of the Rolls, in particular.

But unlike Mr Arthur Scargill, president of the Yorkshire miners' who suggested that the ruling should be ignored, they indicated that they think, on the basis of the Express Newspapers v MacShane judgment in the Lords, that an appeal against the decision must succeed.

Mr George Thomas, Speaker of the Commons, intervened several times during question time in the House when Labour

MPs tried to criticize Lord Denning.

Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Industry, was answering questions about the steel strike, when Mr Martin Flannery, Labour MP for Sheffield, Hillsborough, and chairman of the Tribune group, said: "Lord Denning and his two accomplices have rigged up their own industrial relations Act."

The Speaker said that was out of order. It was wrong for MPs to impute any motives to judges acting in their judicial capacity, he said.

A stronger attack came from Mr Jeffrey Thomas, QC, a front-bench Opposition spokesman on legal affairs. He said that many people feared that Lord Denning's judgment had not helped

matters. "One effect will be to put down more explosive in an already dangerous minefield."

He added: "By making the law on these matters even more uncertain, he is bringing the law more and more into disarray."

He asked Sir Ian Percival, Solicitor General, who was answering law officers' questions at that point, if he would advise the Lord Chancellor that "though many of us have respected Lord Denning in the past, the time has come for him to retire".

But Mr Speaker said: "Such remarks should follow when there is a motion on the order paper. Judges are not to be criticized except when there is a substantive motion before the House."

Parliamentary report, page 5

Strike order defied at Sheerness plant

By Craig Seton

Sheerness Steel, on the Isle of Sheppey, among the most modern and successful steelworks in Britain, was one of the few private companies to continue working normally yesterday as its workforce defied union instructions to join the national steel strike.

More than 420 of the 815 employees belong to the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation (ISTC) and last week it was heading for a reluctant acquiescence to the union's instruction to take industrial action.

Lord Denning's decision in the Court of Appeal on Saturday to grant independent steel companies an injunction drew them back from the brink. Mr Dick Back, branch secretary of the union at Sheerness, said last night: "The men are very happy to be working, but they are very confused."

"It is a very difficult situation. If you stand one side of the line you are in trouble with the executive, if you stand on the other side you are breaking the law. But in the light of the injunction the men feel they may under an obligation to go to work."

Apart from a token picket of six men from Rotherham one day last week, the national strike has bypassed Sheerness Steel, but a union representative in London claimed that its members at the works were being "terrified" and put under pressure by the management to continue working. He declined to say how.

Mr Clancy Schueppert, chief executive of the company, was reluctant to discuss the attitude of the workforce yesterday but said the company had "excellent industrial relations" and believed in hard work.

R. W. Shakespeare writes from Manchester: Reluctant strikers at Manchester's largest private steel plant complained yesterday about having been "dragged into somebody else's dispute".

Manchester Steel, which is Norwegian-owned, was brought to a standstill as its 300 workers obeyed the ISTC strike instruction. The plant claims it has a "model" labour relations agreement and it negotiated a new pay deal for its workers just before Christmas.

Stockholders to seek legal advice on barring pickets

By Peter Hill
Editorial Industrial

Britain's steel stockholders will seek legal advice today on whether the decision of the Court of Appeal on Saturday extends to the withdrawal of pickets from stockholders' yards.

Since the strike began on

January 2 about 10 per cent of the 264 stockholders, members of the National Association of Steel Stockholders, have been picketed by the striking steel workers.

Mr Richard Rawlins, director of the association, said that the organization assumed that the executive council of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation this afternoon would formally ask its members to withdraw pickets from private sector works after the Court of Appeal injunction.

The corporation is anxious to ascertain whether the confederation and the NUB see any early prospect of holding further talks with the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service or with the BSC.

Rally becomes attack on Government policies

Continued from page 1
all subject to the law: trade unionists and judges."

Mr Foot said that Lord Denning's judgment appeared to be outside the law as it now stands because it was being suggested that Parliament should pass new legislation in line with the Court of Appeal.

"Nothing could be more dangerous than to drag the law and the judges into this dispute, but if it does happen and it has happened, and there is confusion, it is not because of what Parliament has done, but because of what the judges have said. They have to learn to obey

the law in this country," he said.

The country faced a financial and political crisis of the first order. To massive cheers Mr Foot added: "Let us carry forward this campaign to industrial and political victory for our people, our workers, and for the whole country."

Although the strike had been called specifically to protest against the British Steel Corporation's plans for importing coking coal, the 15,000 strikers who marched through Cardiff turned it into a wider attack against the Government's economic and industrial policies.

The one-day action was a compromise by the Welsh union leaders who had postponed plans for an all-out stoppage until March 10 after promises of firm action by the TUC against the BSC proposals.

But Mr Emyl Williams, president of the South Wales miners said his union might act before March: "As far as we are concerned we are reserving our options because if the steelworkers are defeated the working class movement in this country is beaten."

Mr George Wright, general secretary of the Wales TUC, said: "We will not take 50,000

redundancies in three months' time from any Government, let alone one which has been promising privilege since coming to office."

More than 100,000 workers were on strike in the region, although Mr Wright estimated that 250,000 took part in some form of limited protest. More than 10,000 railwaymen and dockers stopped work, closing five state-owned ports and halting rail services.

The march through Cardiff city centre was headed by the Merthyr Colliery band, part of the contingent of 30,000 miners on strike.

Peers criticize EEC plan to control advertising

By Our Consumer Affairs Correspondent

The House of Lords Select Committee on the European Communities, in a report published today, severely criticizes European Commission proposals to control misleading and unfair advertising.

The committee, which relied heavily on the preparation of its report on the evidence of advertising industry interests, complains that the commission's draft directive will not accommodate the United Kingdom's self-regulatory system of advertising control.

The draft directive was

revised last year to permit regulation by "administrative authorities". That was done largely to meet British objections and on the presumption that the Office of Fair Trading would be the authority with statutory power to regulate advertising in Britain.

The select committee, which did not see evidence from the Office of Fair Trading, expresses concern that the Advertising Standards Authority, which has no formal powers and is funded by the advertising industry, will not qualify as an administrative authority.

The details of which were disclosed in *The Times* yesterday.

Majority want Olympics moved

By a Staff Reporter

British athletes were yesterday given the full support of their official body to take part in the controversial Moscow Olympics this summer. But a Marplan poll published last night shows public opinion marginally in favour of moving the games to an alternative venue.

The British Amateur Athletics Board announced that it was wholeheartedly behind athletes in their desire to go to Moscow.

Mr David Shaw, secretary of the board, said it regretted that sportsmen were being faced with such a dilemma, but took the view for the present that they should be free to take part.

The dilemma also appears to

be shared by the public. The Marplan poll, commissioned for the new BBC current affairs programme, *Newsnight*, showed only 39 per cent of those questioned in favour of the games proceeding as planned, while 40 per cent thought they should be moved to an alternative site.

Only 3 per cent thought the games should be cancelled, while 7 per cent considered that they should be postponed.

But a substantial majority supported the view that if the games were held as planned, British athletes should take part, with 58 per cent in favour and 35 per cent against. Of those asked, 47 per cent thought the athletes should decide, 34 per cent believed it should be

Psychopath murdered a youth in same cell

From Christopher Thomas
Belfast

Sir Ian said that serious consideration was being given to the tabling of amendments to the Employment Bill, now before the Commons, to strengthen the provisions on secondary picketing.

Mr Patrick McNair-Wilson, Conservative MP for New Forest, yesterday wrote to Sir Michael Havers, Attorney General, asking what action he proposed to take about Mr Scargill's remark that Lord Denning's judgment should be ignored.

Members of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers' group of Labour MPs last night tabled a motion condemning the "ill considered and provocative judgment of Lord Denning and his colleagues".

The judge was told that the prison authorities knew that Vincent Smith, also aged 20, was abnormally violent, and some days before the killing a prison officer gave a warning that someone might die because of him.

Mr Smith was serving a minimum sentence of 20 years for stabbing and beating a drunken man to death in 1977. He admitted strangling Mr Paul Lehar with the sleeve of his own shirt in their cell last June, and yesterday was sent to Broadmoor after the Crown accepted his plea of not guilty to murder but guilty to manslaughter because of diminished responsibility.

MPs last night criticized the prison authorities and demanded an inquiry. Mr Robert Kilroy-Silk, Labour MP for Ormskirk, tabled a Commons question to Mr William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary.

Mr Neville Trotter, Conservative MP for Tynemouth, described the case as shocking.

During the case Judge Miskin said the Home Office was aware of the killing and he was confident it would look into the matter to see if there were "some things which should have been observed" that should have led to the Home Secretary exercising his powers to move Mr Smith elsewhere and not share a cell.

Mr Elmo Jacobs, a psychiatrist, said Mr Smith had a psychiatric history since the age of eight. He added: "He has a severe and persistent disturbance of personality which abnormally violent conduct which diminishes responsibility. This is called a psychopathic disorder."

Mr Arthur Smith, a bus driver, and his wife Marlene, of Potter's Bar, London, adopted Vincent Smith when he was nine months old. Mrs Smith said last night: "I know he wanted a retrial over his conviction I can only think he did this to catch the attention of the authorities so that he could get back to court again."

"There is no doubt about it, he is a psychopath. But prison is not the answer for him."

On the issue of power-sharing, Mr Atkins told the conference.

Testing time reached at Ulster conference

From Christopher Thomas
Belfast

After three weeks of pre-battle, the Ulster constitutional conference last night arrived at the crucial issue of power-sharing in an atmosphere of severe tension between Roman Catholics and "loyalists".

Kidnap: ordered: A Belfast businessman kidnapped by four armed men in the Irish Republic, told yesterday, how he ran for his life after pushing away a gun pointed at his head and fleeing the heat of snow in a dense forest (The Press Association reports).

"I was relieved to be still alive. I had accepted that I was a dead man," Mr John Foster, aged 48, of Melford Drive, Dundonald, Belfast, said.

His six-hour ordeal began on Sunday when he was abducted from a group of men in a equestrian event in Glaslough, co. Monaghan, where he was on holiday.

Police believe the kidnappers, thought to be Provisional IRA, misook him for an RUC man in the same party.

"Mr Foster said last night: 'I was bundled into a car. I soon saw it was not and became very afraid.'

After a long drive the car stopped at a forest clearing covered with frozen snow. He was taken out and his sheep removed and he was asked if he was a policeman, which he denied. "I was in the tummy with the gun and punched on the jaw."

"A gun was produced and it went 'click'. One of the men went to my gun to his forehead. I knew it was going to fire. I deflected his arm, a shot was fired and I felt the heat as it passed my head," Mr Foster said.

As the bullet went behind him, he was hit in the head. Six hours later he was found by the garda.

Police believe the kidnappers, thought to be Provisional IRA, misook him for an RUC man in the same party.

'Absent-minded' theory on woman in plane fall

By

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HOME NEWS

Union plans disruption if wage rises are not paid

By Paul Roulledge

The largest Civil Service union is drawing up contingency plans to take industrial action if the Government does not pay in full salary increases proposed after a comparison exercise with private industry.

In a circular to its 220,000 members, Mr Kenneth Thomas, general secretary of the Civil and Public Services Association, gives a warning of "a spectre of another area of arbitrary interference in our pay bargaining" and discloses that his union is already working on a programme of disruption.

There was widespread disillusion in the Civil Service last spring over the outgoing Labour government's incomes policy when key staff, particularly computer operators, were brought out on strike.

CPSA leaders appear to be preparing for a similar conflict over implementation of 15-20 per cent pay increases suggested by the 1980 Pay Research Unit (PRU).

"The concern of the whole Civil Service trade union movement is whether the Government will want, in one way or another, to restrict the increases for pay due to us under PRU, either by cash limits or by some totally artificial enhancement of the value of our pensions or so-called job security," Mr Thomas says in the circular. "In particular, we deplore their announced intention of fixing such cash limits upon the basis of employers' interpretation of PRU evidence. We also declare that we will resist any attempt to interfere with our pension scheme, as well as any attempt to impose staging of the settlement."

The union has bolstered its industrial action fund by transferring £500,000 into it, and another ominous sign is the Civil Service executive's insistence that all sections of the CPSA will be involved if last year's disruption is repeated.

Members in the sensitive ministries dealing with the public, Employment and Health and Social Security, were excluded from the last bout of strikes. This time there would be strong internal pressure to involve services to the public as well as activity crucial to the operation of government.

Minister's warning: Mr Paul Channon, Minister of State at the Civil Service Department, said yesterday that senior civil servants in top Whitehall posts would not be spared in cuts being made in Civil Service manpower (Peter Hennessy writes).

Mr Channon, in evidence to the Commons Select Committee on the Treasury and Civil Service, said that 11,000 of the 39,000 jobs due to disappear over the next three years would be saved by transferring work to the private sector.

Court clears Lord Kagan's son of fraud charges

Michael Kagan, aged 28, son of Lord Kagan, was discharged at Leeds Magistrates' Court yesterday after Mr Ian Boyd, the Hull stipendiary magistrate, ruled there was no prima facie case against him to go for trial.

But Mr Boyd, who has been hearing committal proceedings which have lasted 16 days, ruled that there was a case to go for trial against Lady Kagan, three other individual defendants and two companies.

Mr Kagan, of Barkisland Hall, Barkisland, near Halifax, West Yorkshire, had been charged with conspiracy to defraud in connexion with a scheme to export denim cloth abroad and retain the profits abroad, and also with dishonestly falsifying an invoice required for an accounting purpose.

The other defendants are Lady Kagan, aged 54, of Fixby Road, Huddersfield; Raymond Kennedy, aged 53, of Wedgewood Drive, Leeds; Valdemar Ginsburg and his wife, Iolyn, Ginsburg, and his wife, Iolyn, Edge, of Broomfield, Hull.

Two questioned on Conflat death

Two men were still being questioned by detectives yesterday in connexion with the murder of Maxwell Conflat, aged 26, a homosexual prostitute, as police officers again searched a lake near East Grinstead, Sussex.

It was also disclosed last night that the Director of Public Prosecutions is advising Scotland Yard on new inquiries into the murder eight years ago, which led to a legal tangle.

Union 'villains' blamed for destroying company

From Our Correspondent

Norwich

Mr Guy Wayne, aged 71, the former managing director of two magazines, attacked trade unions in his address to a jury at Norwich Crown Court yesterday.

He appeared in his own defence and said that his magazine company was profitable until 1975, when it was affected by a series of strikes and industrial action. He blamed union "villains" for destroying his company and said the circulation of the *Nottingham Observer* plunged from 10,000 a month to just over 2,000.

Mr Wayne, of Colston Bassett Hall, near Nottingham, said:

'Mandarins' attacked by Mr Benn as menace to democracy

By George Clark
Political Correspondent

restore the authority of the House of Commons, to secure effective ministerial control over the Civil Service, and to move towards a more constitutional type of premiership," he said.

When senior civil servants saw a new government coming to power with a policy that went outside their consensus, plans were laid that would divert ministerial energies into channels that did not disturb the even flow of established Whitehall policy.

"It is not coincidence that governments of both parties appear to end up with policies very similar to each other and which are, in every case, a great deal more acceptable to Whitehall than were the manifestos upon which parties were originally elected," he said.

There was also now the EEC, a mandarin's paradise. "The considered judgment of many about the role of most civil servants, but particularly those in the Foreign Office, is that in a deep sense many, if not most, of them, are transferring their real allegiance from the United Kingdom to the European Community," Mr Benn said.

To reopen the campaign for democratic pay, it was necessary to consider seriously a freedom of information Act, a stronger parliamentary control; a more constitutional premiership; more ministerial control over the Civil Service; abolition of patronage; and an amendment to the European Communities Act to restore full power to the elected House of Commons.

'Guardian' wins top press award

Reports on jury voting at a recent trial at the Central Criminal Court and an investigation into virginity tests on immigrants at Heathrow airport have helped *The Guardian* to win the Newspaper of the Year award.

Hamid Enayat, Professor of Political Philosophy at Tehran University, asks why it is happening now and how it differs from previous resurgences and Leila Ahmed, sometime Associate Professor at the United Arab Emirates University looks at the 'pure' Islam to which leaders of the resurgence seek to return.

Both articles are essential reading for anyone seeking to understand current events in the tumultuous arc of Morocco to Afghanistan.

Whitehall brief: Two thirds of first-division staff want to operate as union

Senior civil servants suffer mild schizophrenia

By Peter Hennessy

Nobody understands raw power better than a senior civil servant. An accomplished official, pausing outside his ministry after a convivial lunch, once told me, as his parting remark, that Lord Acton was quite wrong about power corrupting.

"For any civil servant," he said, "all power is delightful; absolute power is absolutely delightful." Then he strode away and proceeded to wield it. His union, however, the Association of First Division Civil Servants, known to all as the FDA, is deeply ambivalent about power of the industrial kind. Should it contemplate strike action to protect its members' standard of life or should it emphasize its commitment to public service and eschew disruption of any kind? In short, should the FDA be a trade union or a managers' staff association?

When faced with the choice, the FDA has, in the past, demonstrated symptoms of mild schizophrenia. It is doing so at the moment as its executive prepares to discuss a paper on industrial action at its next meeting on February 7.

At the association's last annual conference, the FDA executive was instructed to examine the matter in the wake of the "day of action" taken by Civil Service unions on April 2. About one third of its 10,000 members (the figure includes the Association of Inspectors of Taxes) came out, including a handful of under-secretaries who stood on picket lines outside their departments.

The paper prepared for next



Photograph by John Manning

month's meeting declares strike action except as a weapon of last resort in extreme circumstances. The possibility of concluding a no-strike agreement with the Government is mentioned. Great emphasis is placed on consulting the membership before industrial action of any kind is taken.

Mr George Marshall, acting-

class people" at the summit of Whitehall.

On Friday, Mr Marshall, aged 63, a veteran of the Diplomatic Service, will revert to his former post as deputy general secretary to make way for Mr John Ward, aged 37, general secretary of the Bank of England Staff Organization, who was appointed to the FDA job late last year. Mr Ward thinks that quips about his new employer's "mild schizophrenia" are a journalist's exaggeration and complains that the world at large does not understand or value them sufficiently.

Asked to name the achievements he would like to have under his belt when *The Times* asks for a progress report on his stewardship in five years, he lists three:

1. A greater appreciation of the role of senior civil servants.
2. The continuation of the "fair comparison" method of paying civil servants, with the findings of the pay research system implemented in full.
3. The talent that exists within the FDA harnessed through its membership of the Trades Union Congress, to securing better industrial relations generally.

In the meantime, the FDA with a newly acquired seat on the TUC's public services committee, will have to find ways of living with any "days of action" mounted against the very trade union reform legislation its members have helped ministers to prepare.

Campaign to improve widows' lot is launched

By Penny Symon

A campaign was launched in London yesterday to persuade the Government to improve the lot of Britain's three million widows by changing the taxation system in the forthcoming Budget.

The Widows' Charter, 1980, drawn up by the National Association of Widows, says that the time is long overdue for the ending of discrimination against widows by both the Treasury and the Department of Health and Social Security.

"Taxation is the one thing that hits widows especially hard," Mrs June Hemer, the association's secretary, said. The charter says that widows depending entirely on their state pension may be liable to pay income tax; working widows, taxed as single people, pay more than married women doing the same job; and widows paying full National Insurance contributions are denied benefits they have paid for.

The charter demands that the widows' allowance paid during the first six months of widowhood should be free of tax; that all widows' pensions should be ignored for tax purposes; that widows who pay full National Insurance contributions should be entitled to receive the benefits for which they have contributed; and that the reduced pensions of women widowed before their fiftieth birthday should be increased on a sliding scale until the full pension was payable at 50.

The February issue of *History Today* examines the historical background to the resurgence of Islam—the motive force in today's arc of crisis.

Hamid Enayat, Professor of Political Philosophy at Tehran University, asks why it is happening now and how it differs from previous resurgences and Leila Ahmed, sometime Associate Professor at the United Arab Emirates University looks at the 'pure' Islam to which leaders of the resurgence seek to return.

Both articles are essential reading for anyone seeking to understand current events in the tumultuous arc of Morocco to Afghanistan.

Religious Intolerance.

J. A. Guy paints a rather darker picture of Thomas More than that popularly portrayed on stage and screen. In Sir Thomas More and the Heretics he shows how More, in his bitter opposition to Luther, was prepared to burn heretics at the stake.

Walter Arnstein uses 'The Great Victorian Convent Case' to focus on 'No-Popery' in nineteenth century England and to examine Victorian attitudes to the status of women in society. In passing he quotes some saintly repartee which not only amused the gallery but bemused Queens Counsel.

The Scottish Revolution.

David Stevenson examines Trevor-Roper's influential interpretation of the impact of the Scottish Revolution on its 17th century English counterpart, and suggests that he seriously underestimates both the importance of that impact and Scotland's economic and political sophistication.

Student Power in the Middle Ages.

Alan Cobban traces the rise and fall of the student controlled medieval university and describes how the lecturers eventually triumphed over the students.

This month's lavishly illustrated *History Today* also includes:

"The Seventeenth Century Renaissance"–Western influences in Russian Art and Architecture–Lindsey A. J. Hughes.

"The Tragedy of Leopold III of the Belgians"–General Sir James Marshall-Cornwall.

"Bristol Conserved"–Bryan Little.

Book of the month.

History Today, edited by Michael Crowder, is available every month from your newsagent for only 60p.

HISTORY TODAY

More fascinating than fiction

Islam-Roots of Crisis.

£158,000 school fire charge

A former pupil of Uppingham School, accused of causing fire damage estimated at £158,000 at the public school, appeared before magistrates yesterday. The youth, aged 16, is charged with starting a fire in a house- master's study.

The case was adjourned for a month pending preparations for a committal to the crown court at Leicester. The youth was remanded on bail on condition that he lives with his grandparents.

It was also disclosed last night that the Director of Public Prosecutions is advising Scotland Yard on new inquiries into the murder eight years ago, which led to a legal tangle.

Two questioned on Conflat death

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Union 'villains' blamed for destroying company

From Our Correspondent

Norwich

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He appeared in his own defence and said that his magazine company was profitable until 1975, when it was affected by a series of strikes and industrial action. He blamed union "villains" for destroying his company and said the circulation of the *Nottingham Observer* plunged from 10,000 a month to just over 2,000.

Mr Wayne, of Colston Bassett Hall, near Nottingham, said:

"Fleet Street is suffering from the same anarchy. When you get a bolshie works it is impossible to run a business. These unions are ruining the whole

country, not just Fleet Street."

Mr Wayne, Malcolm Campbell, aged 44, his former deputy managing director, and Arthur Dewey, aged 55, the company's chartered accountant, have pleaded not guilty to conspiracy to defraud advertisers by falsely inflating circulation figures of the *Nottingham Observer* and the *Tatler* and *Syndicate*.

A fourth defendant, Leonard Sutton, aged 57, printing works foreman, was acquitted on the direction of Judge Lloyd. He was awarded costs out of public funds.

Mr Wayne told the jury that after only 15 minutes in the witness box it was patently obvious that Mr Sutton was innocent.

"There must be something sadly lacking in the Nottinghamshire police. Do you think Sutton was prosecuted or persecuted?"

The trial continues today.

HOME NEWS

Abortion Bill's full implications are not realized, MP says

By Annabel Ferriman
The Abortion (Amendment) Bill might go through Parliament because many MPs did not realize its full implications, Mr William Hamilton, Labour MP for Fife, Central, said yesterday.

Many MPs were supporting the Bill because they were in favour of reducing the time limit for abortions from the present 28 weeks, but they did not understand what other effects it would have, Mr Hamilton said.

The Bill, which was opposed by the main medical organizations, including the British Medical Association and the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, would have the effect of reducing the number of abortions by three-quarters and destroying the abortion charities which carried out a third of all abortions.

An early day motion signed by 152 MPs had been put down in the Commons on Friday and more were expected to sign it, Mr Hamilton said.

The motion points out that while the Bill proposed to change the criteria for abortion, Dr Gerard Vaughan, Minister of State for Health, said last July that the professions involved did not believe that the criteria should be changed.

Mr Hamilton and the four other MPs who opposed the Bill in committee yesterday tabled 40 amendments to it. Other amendments are expected from Mrs Renée Short, Labour MP for Wolverhampton, North-East, and Mr David Steel, leader of the Liberal Party.

The Bill is due to come back to the floor of the House for its report stage on February 8 and is at the top of the order paper for the next Friday. In the other private member's Bill committee of committee stage during February it could be discussed on several subsequent Fridays.

Mr Hamilton, and his colleagues propose in their amendments that the time limit for abortion should be raised from the 20 weeks of pregnancy now laid down in the Bill to 24 weeks, the limit supported by most of the medical organizations.

They also propose that the Secretary of State for Social Services should have the same control over the abortion charities as he was given over the private abortion clinics by the Abortion Act, 1967, to reassure the public that no abuses were taking place.

The clause of the Bill that deals with charities aims to break the financial link between the abortion clinics and the referral agencies to ensure that those counselling a pregnant woman have no financial interest in her having an abortion.

Churchills club to close, owner tells court

Churchills, the London night club, is to close. Harry Meadows, the owner, told a jury at Knightsbridge Crown Court, London, yesterday: "We are aiming to close it down in view of what the police action has done. If you look at our business and our figures you will see we are running at a loss."

Mr Meadows, aged 63, and his son Andrew, aged 38, also a director of the club, both of Mayfair, have pleaded not guilty to living off the earnings of prostitutes working as Churchills' hostesses. The trial continues today.

Theft 'for dog'

James Anastassi, aged 20, said at Marlborough Street Magistrates' Court, London, yesterday to have been caught with a "No waiting" traffic cone sticking out of his car boot, said to the police: "I am taking it home for my dog to chew." Mr Anastassi, of Avenue Road, Southgate, London, was fined £10.

MPs to get report on Totalisator Board

By Arthur Osman
Mr William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, is expected to make a statement in the Commons this week on the inquiry he ordered into the affairs of the Horse Race Totalisator Board.

The inquiry began last September under Mr Francis Aglionby, a Crown Court recorder, whose report was submitted to the Secretary of State on January 18. A Home Office

spokesman said yesterday: "A summary of the findings is to be published but I am unable to say when."

Mr Bruce George, Labour MP for Walsall, South, who raised the matter in the Commons last summer, said yesterday that he had tabled a question about the inquiry's progress and was asking Mr Whitelaw to make a statement.

Mr Whitelaw had refused a request for an inquiry when Mr

George alleged in the Commons that punters had been swindled out of winnings. He said that Totalisator Credit had placed bets after the results of races were known. Mr Whitelaw had replied that he had been told that only bets received before "the off" had been included in the pool.

But after pressure from the all-party parliamentary racing committee he ordered the inquiry.

Chelsea show debars firm that failed to meet orders

By Robin Young
Consumer Affairs Correspondent
A company has been excluded from the Chelsea Flower Show because orders taken and paid for at last year's show in May have remained unfilled.

The firm, W. Teakle and Co, of Finchampstead Road, Wokingham, Berkshire, had taken a large number of orders for ornamental garden stonework. Many customers got duplicated cards last July apologizing for the delay in filling their orders, and in some cases they have heard nothing since, despite requests to have their money refunded.

A statement on behalf of the Royal Horticultural Society, which organizes the Chelsea show, said: "We do try to establish the bona fides of all exhibitors, but we cannot be responsible for their trading for."

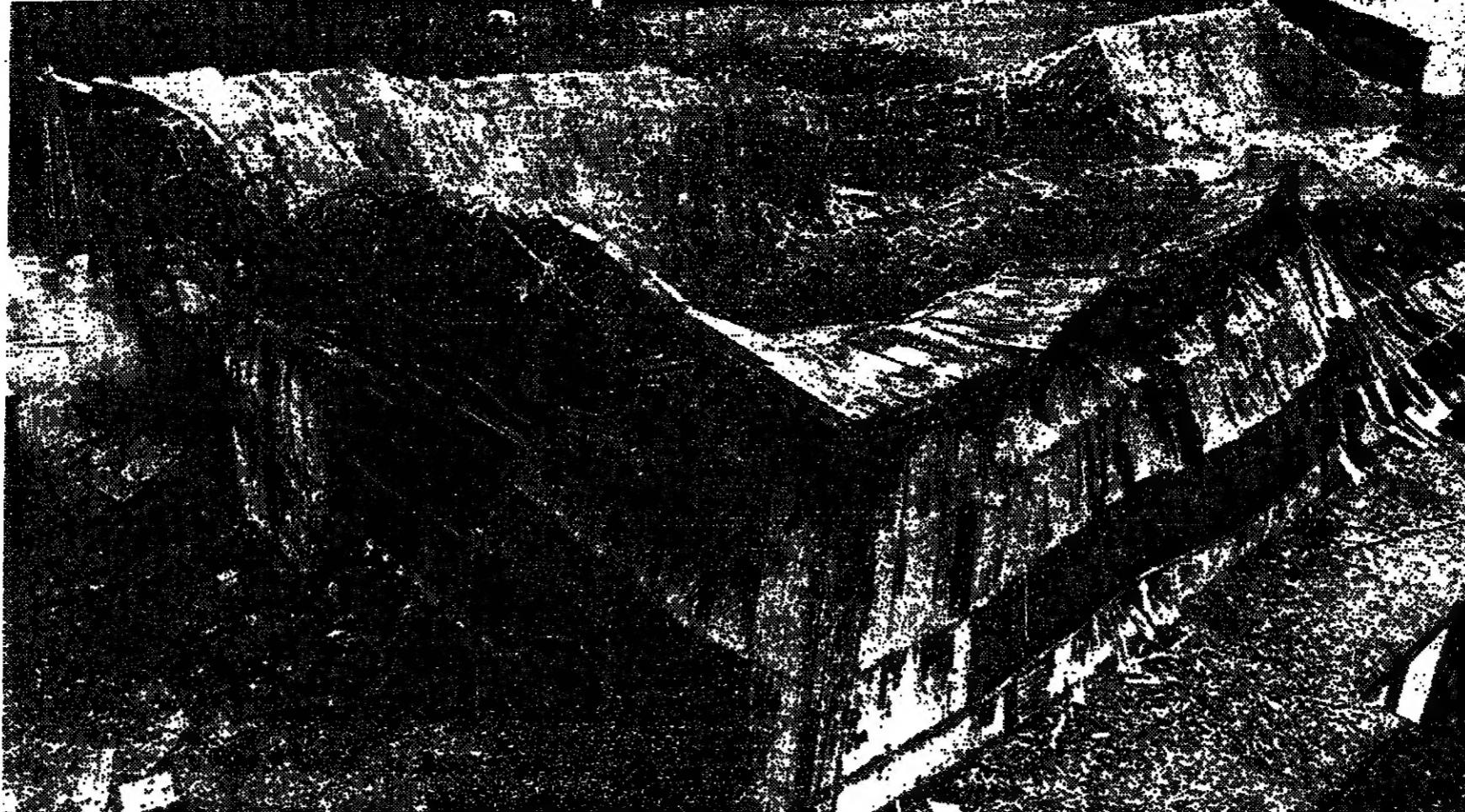
Airlines to take over BA's rejected routes

Dan-Air Services has been granted a licence to operate flights between Bristol and Cardiff and Dublin and Paris, and between Newcastle upon Tyne and Dublin. The routes are among 26 being given up as uneconomic by British Airways.

The Civil Aviation Authority also announced yesterday that Air United Kingdom will take over the BA licence to operate on the Leeds and Bradford-Dublin route.

As an experiment the authority is to allow the Channel Islands carrier, Alitalia, to fly limited charter services between the islands and Birmingham, Leeds and Bradford, Coventry, Exeter and Cardiff.

Review of last year's weather, page 21



All that is left of British Aerospace's spares plant at Weybridge, Surrey, after an outbreak of fire. Damage was estimated at £20m. Spares for 11 aircraft, including the Concorde, were destroyed. Police were waiting yesterday for firemen to damp down the wreckage before searching for the cause of the outbreak.

Mr Prior suggests an 'Open Tech'

By Diana Geddes
Education Correspondent

The establishment of an "Open Tech", using the distance-learning techniques of the Open University, to provide part-time courses for adults at technician level was suggested yesterday by Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Employment.

Mr Prior agreed that the Conservative Party had been very sceptical about the merits of the Open University when it was first set up in 1969; but he felt that it had settled down and improved, and that it was now performing an important task.

If the Open University had not existed, 39,000 fewer people would have been able to realize their ambition to obtain a university degree. One in 16 of all United Kingdom graduates now come through the Open University, he said.

Speaking at a press conference to announce the new grad-

uates from the Open University, Mr Prior said that the university had enriched society. It had shown what could be achieved through a combination of new technology and all that was best in the ideals of education.

The future of Britain's economy depended on the ability of British industry to compete in international markets; that put a premium on people with scientific, engineering and technical qualifications.

The success of the Open University in providing primarily graduate-level education had made many people wonder whether the same principles could not be applied to technical education; technicians were also in great demand. The idea, he emphasized, was still in its infancy.

There were practical difficulties in applying distance learning techniques to technical education. But many experiments were going on, some of which

might solve the difficulties of distance learning for skills.

The determination, motivation and ability of mature students such as those at the Open University should be given every encouragement. He appealed to industry and business to consider how they could help by paying fees (now £129 for a one-credit course and one week at summer school), by giving summer school leave, or by recognizing achievement through promotion.

Mr Prior held out no hope of the Government giving financial assistance to Open University students, whether in the form of grants or loans. Like all part-timers, Open University students are not eligible for the mandatory grant given to full-time undergraduates. Local authorities are severely reducing the number of discretionary awards for students.

Child action group attacks Education Bill guillotine

By Our Education Correspondent

It is a scandal that a measure that has crucial implications for the education and health of thousands of children is to be rushed through the Commons by the Government, the Child Poverty Action Group says in a statement issued today.

A guillotine motion is to be taken on the Education Bill this evening. That will limit the debate on the controversial clauses giving local authorities freedom to charge what they like for school meals, milk and transport.

The group points out that

even if the Government agrees to amend the Bill so as to place a clear duty on education authorities to provide free school meals for children in families dependent on supplementary benefit or family income supplement, 500,000 children still stand to lose their entitlement to a free meal.

It predicts that the planned big increases in school meal charges will lead to a huge drop in the numbers taking a meal. It is concerned that thousands of children just above the poverty line will go hungry or have inappropriate food at midday.

Other wills, page 14

f70,744 left by cottage murder woman

From Our Correspondent

For a bridge the starting date would be 1983. For a tunnel the target date could be 1986.

The conference was called by the county council, the British Road Federation and the Confederation of British Industry in Wales to demand faster progress in the scheme to make the A55 into a dual carriageway between Chester and Bangor.

Two MPs, Mr Dafydd Wigley (Plaid Cymru, Caernarfon) and Mr Keith Best (Conservative, Anglesey), spoke of the vital importance of the road to the economy of North Wales. Many delegates expressed fears about the next round of spending cuts.

Other wills, page 14

Gordon Cooke, a smuggler of rare birds, was tracked down by the Canadian Mounted Police from a letter Judge Sims, QC, was told at Leicester Crown Court yesterday.

Mr Cooke, aged 48, who was said to have operated from his home in Burleigh Avenue, Wigston Fields, Leicester, admitted six offences of illegally importing birds, one of exporting birds and another involving recklessly declaring an untrue document in regard to the import of rare birds. He was jailed for six months and fined £200.

Mr Jeremy Roberts, for the prosecution, said that Mr Cooke, although well aware or restricted by law, had placed his birds under the "conceal" clause.

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The church would have to take into account its membership's state of belief in the development of its teaching and would also have to study its teaching methods.

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The church would have

PARLIAMENT, January 28, 1980

Lord Denning's judgment on steel strike attacked: ministers studying 'new and serious' issues

House of Commons
The Court of Appeal judgment on Saturday—with Lord Denning, Master of the Rolls, presiding, forbidding the extension of the national steel strike to private sector steel companies, figured in question time exchanges to Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Industry, and Mr Ian Percival, the Solicitor General.

References to the judgment began when Mr John Evans (Newport, Lab) called on Sir Keith to move on to the next time he met the chairman of the British Steel Corporation (Sir Charles Villiers) that he utterly rejected Lord Denning's judgment that the steel workers were involved in a political strike against the Government. Sir Keith said he did not comment on judicial decisions.

Mr Kenneth Lewis (Rutland and Stamford, C)—If the Secretary of State will not comment on the Denning judgment, would he perhaps comment on what Mr Bill Scargill said arising out of the judgment?

Mr Scargill said that he now believes Parliament has to deal with the question of secondary picketing in the context of our Employment Bill, notwithstanding that the Opposition and the TUC have said nothing on the Bill.

Sir Keith Joseph—That is a question for the Secretary of State for Employment (Mr James Prior).

In later exchanges with Mr Adam Butler, Minister of State for Industry, Mr Frank Hooley (Sheffield, Heeley, Lab) said—if there is to be any kind of regulation of secondary picketing, it should be done by legislation passed through Parliament and not by judicial fiat from the Court of Appeal.

That ruling flies in the face of the recent judgment of the House of Lords, which means that Lord Denning has fallen on his face once again.

Mr Butler—it would not be proper for me to comment on the decision by the House of Lords, which is a matter of law, but I would like to say that the House of Lords' judgment is not sustainable. There is a question of whether it is a matter of law, or whether it is a matter of fact.

Mr Martin Flannery (Sheffield, Hillsborough, Lab)—Lord Denning and his two accomplices have rigged up their own industrial relations Act.

The Speaker (Mr George Thomas)—Order. My predecessor, the late Lord Selwyn Lloyd, gave a ruling on March 4 about a similar situation to that which faces us when he said: "It can be argued that the judge made a mistake and it would be wrong and the reason for this contention can only be when certain limits. What is wrong is to impose any motives at all to judges acting in their responsible office."

Mr Flannery—is it not a fact—(Conservative shouts of "Withdraw") The Speaker—Order. I will take this up again; it can be important for us later in the week as well as today.

Mr Patrick Cormack (South-West Staffordshire, C)—Would you ask Mr Flannery to withdraw the word "rigging"?

The Speaker—I did not like the word "accomplices". Any implication of motives against the judge.

An MP who has always driven a BL car

It might be a good idea if MPs buy British Leyland cars, Mr Eric Heffer (Liverpool, Walton, Lab) said at question time.

Mr David Mitchell, Under-Secretary for Industry (Basingstoke, C), said an estimated 1,480,000 vehicles were produced in the United Kingdom last year. This figure was lower than in any of the previous 10 years.

Mr Heffer—One of the problems is that over the years the workers of BL have been consistently knocked, totally, wrongly, by MPs, particularly on the Conservative side. It might be a good idea if MPs actually bought BL cars. (Laughter) and (applause).

On this one issue, only I find myself in agreement with Mr Michael Edwards. I personally have had a BL car ever since I have driven and found them very satisfactory. (Laughter.)

The Speaker (Mr George Thomas)—Order. It is not time for boisterous (Laughter) and (applause).

Mr Heffer—Unfortunately, the knocking of the British car industry has been done by the customers. They are the king. We should not fail to recognize that fact. There was a story in the newspapers of an American Leyland in some other country which had to sell his Daimler car. (Laughter.)

Mr Heffer—He is an idiot too.

Cash for strikers
Mr Reginald Pocock, Minister of State for Social Security, in a written answer, said the total sum paid in supplementary benefit to steel strikers and their dependants up to the close of business on January 22 was as follows: strikers without dependants, £250; strikers with dependants, £790,000.

Parliamentary notices
House of Commons—Mr. D. J. Doherty (South-West Lancs) moved, on gas price, Unlawful motion on Education (No. 2); Bill.

House of Lords—2.30 pm. Justice (Scotland) Bill, committee.

Oil companies to pay tax earlier

House of Lords
Moving the second reading of the Petroleum Revenue Tax Bill, which has passed the Commons, Lord Cockfield, Minister of State, Treasury, said its object was to raise an additional £700m in revenue this financial year. The money was to be used to keep the public sector borrowing requirement within the target set by the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

The Bill achieved that by requiring oil companies operating in the North Sea to pay their petroleum revenue tax when they made their returns and not as at present, some months later.

In the current year PRT which under the existing law would have been payable on May 1, 1980 would be payable on March 1 so that the money due should be received in the present financial year. The additional revenue was estimated

is out of order. What may be referred to is the judgment. That may be criticized.

Mr Flannery—I did not use the term "secondary". Mr Cormack should apologize. I said: "Brought up an industrial relations Act of their own."

What position are the secondary pickets now in, who are in position at this moment, who are on strike in South Wales? What is going to happen to BSC if this situation deteriorates further as a result of what has happened in the past few days?

Mr Butler—He is expecting me to answer something I am not qualified to answer. What can I tell him in view of the current argument about the effect of calling out the private steel element in the current strike? What can I consider if those words? Furthermore, a trade dispute is now to be more recently defined in future legislation?

Sir Ian Percival—Clearly this is one question which has to be considered. But the British people want us to consider all this carefully before expressing our views, because the steel masters in the decisions taken will affect every aspect of the country's life for a long time.

But it would be idle for anyone at this stage to express views as to what the answer may be on that or any other single aspect of the question.

Mr Jeffrey Thomas, an Opposition spokesman on legal affairs (Aberdare, Lab)—Will he consider that many fear Lord Denning's judgment this weekend has hardly helped the matter, and that one more defeat will be put down before exploding in an already dangerous minefield?

By making the law on these matters even more uncertain still, it is bringing the law and the rules of industrial relations into disrepute. Will he advise the Lord Chancellor that though many of us may have respected Lord Denning in the past, the time has come for him to retire?

The Speaker—Order. Judges are not to be criticized except when there is a substantive motion against them. (Laughter.)

Sir Ian Percival—Many people have many fears arising from the present situation.

I do not think any purpose would be served by the speaker on criticism direct or indirect.

Mr Jeffrey Thomas—Today's Times.

Sir Ian Percival—if he thinks that the speaker will be critical, he should not be critical in which way he picks in furtherance of a trade dispute as compared to others. They are Section 15 of the Trade Union and Labour Relations Act 1974, as amended, and Section 30.

The Secretary of State for Employment (Mr James Prior) and the House of Commons (Conservative critics of "Withdraw").

Sir Ian Percival—Many people have many fears arising from the present situation.

I have not seen the statement attributed to Mr. Scargill but it is bringing the law and the rules of industrial relations into disrepute. Will he advise the Lord Chancellor that though many of us may have respected Lord Denning in the past, the time has come for him to retire?

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Sir Ian Percival—Many people have many fears arising from the present situation.

I am not criticizing. I am merely saying that it emphasizes the desirability of what I was just saying—that we had better find out what was said before we cast any clouds in any direction.

Mr Adam Butler, Minister of State for Industry, said later: In answer to the question on the House of Commons, he would regard the MRB's Prime Minister's statement on Mr Brian Walden's programme that the proposals being put before the House were only interim proposals and that there would be another look at future proposals on picking up the microchip revolution in industrial relations, and good industrial relations, than anything Mr Arthur Scargill might say.

Mr Eric Heffer (Liverpool, Walton, Lab)—Would he indicate what thinking has been done by himself and the Government in relation to the future employment of people as a result of the microchip revolution?

We are likely to have a vast number of unemployed as a result, and he could indicate what measures the Government is likely to take to overcome this serious problem?

Sir Keith Joseph—If adaptability was encouraged instead of obstructed by the trade union movement, we would have the benefit from nearly full employment in this country.

Mr John Cunningham, an Opposition spokesman (Whitehaven, Lab)—Would he reconsider his stupid attack upon the trade union movement? Is it not the case that trade unions unlike, for example, the oil workers, support the development of the national enterprise Board, and is not the criticism that far from adaptation or change, the unions and their members are being faced with unemployment by his policies? That is what they oppose.

Mr Keith Joseph—If the oil workers are not employed, I will send him my 7,000 word lecture entitled "Conditions for Full Employment"—(laughter) in which I tried seriously to summarize effectively the four-word thesis "Job for all" if allowed.

The oil workers are in this country by well-intended intervention over legislation, over regulation and, no doubt, by bad management, but also by uncomprehending obstruction of the trade unions, we have far fewer jobs and far less prosperity and lower pensions than we could have.

Mr David Knox (Leek, C)—Businessmen will only invest in new plant and machinery if they think they are going to be able to sell output at a profit. What steps are the Government taking to increase demand for manufacturing industry?

Sir Keith Joseph (Leeds, North-East, C)—I agree. It is a matter of demand for manufacturing industry.

The Speaker (Mr George Thomas)—There is no time for boisterous (Laughter) and (applause).

Mr Keith Joseph—It is not a fact—(Conservative shouts of "Withdraw") The Speaker—Order. I will take this up again; it can be important for us later in the week as well as today.

Mr Patrick Cormack (South-West Staffordshire, C)—Would you ask Mr Flannery to withdraw the word "rigging"?

The Speaker—I did not like the word "accomplices". Any implication of motives against the judge.

High imports a sign of industrial weakness

An increasing level of import penetration in recent weeks have raised new and serious questions and Mrs Thatcher has indicated the importance of the issue. Mr Cormack should apologize. I said: "Brought up an industrial relations Act of their own."

Sir Ian Percival—Clearly developments in recent weeks have raised new and serious questions and Mrs Thatcher has indicated the importance of the issue. The Government attaches to those and the urgency with which those developments will be considered.

Mr Ian Lawrence (Burton, C)—In view of the current argument about the effect of calling out the private steel element in the current strike, what can I consider if those words? Furthermore, a trade dispute is now to be more recently defined in future legislation?

Sir Ian Percival—Clearly this is one question which has to be considered.

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Mr Ian Lawrence (

WEST EUROPE

French float idea for European defence force outside Nato

From Charles Hargrove

Paris, Jan 28
M Michel Poniatowski, friend and adviser of President Giscard d'Estaing, whose private views he is often believed to reflect and honorary president of the Republican Party, came out in favour of a European nuclear force independent of Nato in an interview on Europe Number One radio yesterday.

"If we are moving towards an armed conflict, I think France and Europe should not share in the suicide of the superpowers," he said. "We must set up an adequate nuclear force of our own, and we can have it in three or four years' time."

"All French submarines will be equipped with multiple warheads, 500 altogether, and if we can reach agreement with Britain, there can be a real deterrent."

The former Minister of State has a well-established reputation for making provocative statements, launched bold ideas, and floating wild balloons on behalf of the President. Whether this is one of them is difficult to establish.

But it is possibly significant that M Jean Lacanuet, president of the Giscardian UDF, during a seminar at the Senate two days ago on the problems facing the European Community, issued a strong appeal for a European defence organization, without which there could be no real progress towards European unity.

This European nuclear force would lead other European countries to what he called "de-Natoization" on the French pattern of 1966.

M Poniatowski bases his reasoning on the proposition that "the American nuclear umbrella is now full of holes", and American leaders had not hidden the fact from Europeans. It would probably not fulfil its function of protecting Europe in more than one case out of four.

"Therefore, if European countries do not wish to be involved

in a nuclear conflict, they must have the same reaction of defence, arising from a reaction of protection. If we wish to commit nuclear suicide, we need only associate ourselves with one or other of the two camps. A whole new military organization would have to be set up, and it would need something like 10 years of negotiation. The European countries should be able to do this gradually; it would not arrive tomorrow, but it would be an inevitable evolution on their part."

The former minister did not mention what part West Germany would play in this European nuclear force, but there is good reason to believe that he sees it as purely logistical and financial.

M Yvon Bourges, Minister of Defence, who is in London today, and tomorrow for talks with Mr Francis Pyn, the Defence Secretary, may raise the possibility of a cooperation between France and Britain in the nuclear field, but only in their private talks.

Officially his journey is to talk about possible joint production of conventional armaments, such as the successors to the Jaguar and Harrier aircraft, the new generation of helicopters, and the third generation of supersonic anti-tank weapons.

France is also open to cooperation with Britain in development and production of a new range of missiles for nuclear submarines, which would substantially reduce the cost to each country, and to some joint targeting of their strategic forces.

M Bourges once made overtures on these lines to Mr Fred Mulley, but got nowhere as the Labour Government did not consider a successor to Polaris.

Mrs Thatcher's Administration, if it is felt in Paris, is more forthcoming, but it is too early in the day to broach the matter. It is a far cry from M Poniatowski's revised version of the abortive European Defence Community of 1952.

Dutch synod resolves vexed issues

From Peter Nichols

Rome, Jan 28

The Dutch bishops and the Vatican have managed to resolve a number of their misunderstandings, according to the markedly soft-sounding official statement issued after today's meeting here of the special synod of the Dutch church.

This clearing away of the "difficulties of the past" had been achieved by the personal contacts established between the Dutch bishops and members of the Roman Curia during the deliberations of the synod.

An overall view on communications between the bishops and the Holy See had shown the bishops the inaccuracy of certain views on Rome's conduct concerning, above all, the Vatican's readiness to be informed of local situations in an impartial, complete and positive way, preferably by the bishops themselves.

The synod also managed to eliminate a degree of uneasiness often over the climate of indecision which, at times, had seemed equivocal and which could have been the cause of the serious concerns felt by Rome.

An examination of the relations between the bishops themselves had shown, among other things, that a deep difference in evaluating the situation in Holland could have been one of the fundamental causes of dissimilar pastoral approaches and of different concepts of collaboration among the bishops.

Reference was made to the moral authority that a united episcopate had to the Holy See could have in the Netherlands.

Pope condemns violence that afflicts sport

From Our Own Correspondent

Rome, Jan 28

The Pope today strongly condemned violent behaviour at sporting events as "nonsense and a monstrous absurdity".

He was speaking at an audience attended by members of the Roma and Lazio football teams. Tension is normally high when these teams play each other.

Memories are still fresh of a disastrous Sunday in October when a young supporter of Roma fired a signal-rocket into the ranks of those backing the opposing sides and killed a spectator.

The Pope, an accomplished sportsman himself, pointed out that sporting events were intended to give pleasure, solidarity and brotherhood, not terror, hate, and division.

French adviser expelled

Victoria, Seychelles, Jan 28

The Seychelles has expelled M Chevrelray, a French technical adviser, arrested last November in connection with an attempt to overthrow the Government, it was reported today.

M Jacques Chevrelray, an adviser with the Seychelles police force, was deported yesterday after admitting participating in the preparation of a coup—or a local and an international level—against Presi-

The Prado loses track of 300 paintings

From Harry Debelius

Madrid, Jan 28

More than 300 paintings from the Prado Museum's collection have been given up as lost, the sub-director, Señor Alfonso Pérez Sánchez, said here today.

During a lecture at the museum, the sub-director said that an investigation had been ordered after Madrid newspapers reported last year that great numbers of art treasures assigned to the museum were missing.

The inquiries disclosed that about 500 paintings had disappeared in the century and a half of the Prado's existence, but some of them could be recovered, reducing the number of those missing to a little over 300.

Señor Pérez Sánchez added that the investigation ordered by the Justice Ministry was useful in tracking down works of art which had been given on loan to civil and religious institutions, and had resulted in the photographing of all the art treasures that could be found.

"Now we will be able to see exactly what we have and where it is," he said, "in order to plan what to do with it."

When the Prado took over the collection of Spain's Triennial National Museum in 1872, it found itself with more than 5,000 paintings and little space to display them. Instead, a policy of distributing paintings on loan to civil and religious institutions was established.

"There was never any question of where these pieces had gone", the sub-director claimed, "but problems arose when it came to finding out if they were still where they went. There were even cases in which paintings were swapped from one embassy to another, without even advising the Prado Museum."

The Prado, which has an excess of pictures, does not intend to recall the paintings in the custody of other institutions, except for some of the more important works.

M Marchais defends Soviet 'peace policy'

From Our Own Correspondent

Paris, Jan 28

The French Communists' counter-offensive in defence of Soviet intervention in Afghanistan and Russia's "peace policy" generally continues unabated, accompanied by particularly violent attacks against the socialists.

They are not apparently embarrassed by the Sakharov affair which provides them with a chance of demonstrating, through mild criticism, that they are not communists by soul and to the Moscow line.

In fact, M Georges Marchais, the first secretary of the party, said on Radio Luxembourg quite tardy that if he had been in Moscow at the time of Dr Sakharov's arrest, "I would have expressed my opposition to it. There would have been no joint communiqué. I would have flown back to Paris the following day, like Chaban-Delmas, and (unlike Chaban-Delmas) I would have made a statement in Moscow."

M Jacques Chaban-Delmas, president of the National Assembly, cut short an official visit to Moscow when the Soviet authorities took action against Dr Sakharov.

M Marchais described Dr Sakharov as a man of the right, but added: "His stand-point should be combated by political and ideological methods, not by administrative measures."

The United States, on the other hand, whose leaders had "blood on their hands", had no right to pose as defenders of the rights of man.

"We, the Communists, the revolutionaries, are the champions of the rights of man," he insisted. "We condemned the period of the guillotines. But what did French governments do about the Algerian war? We condemned practices contrary to

Confidence vote sought on Italy's anti-terror laws

From Our Own Correspondent

Rome, Jan 28

Unfortunately, sport was sometimes distorted towards aims contrary to its nature.

Sport could be exploited, the Pope went on, and used to express hatred, rivalry, or revenge, transforming places of entertainment and joy into places of fear, terror and grief.

The teachings of the Church, he said, could help to prevent many of the events which stained even sports grounds with blood in this time of grief.

Most of those present at the audience belonged to a foundation established in memory of a Lazio player who was killed as a result of a practical joke.

He went into a Rome jeweller's shop with one hand in his pocket, pretending to be a bandit, and the jeweller shot him dead.

The decision to call for a vote of confidence was not an easy one. Some of the Socialists are in two minds about how to deal with the situation.

The Government is dependent on Socialist abstentions for its parliamentary majority. The left wing of the party is in favour of opposing the anti-terrorist measures.

Difficulties for the Government at the moment would damage the country's standing abroad. The Italians now hold

the presidency of the European Community.

He claimed today that infla-

OVERSEAS



The actress Sophia Loren joins President Carter at the White House to launch a national appeal for prevention of child abuse.

Karmal men hide embarrassing slogans under flood of red paint

From Ian Murray

Kabul, Jan 28

They are painting the city of Kabul—or at least that part of it which was decorated with revolutionary slogans.

The big cover-up is on the orders of President Babrak Karmal and his Poliburo, who have ruled that the signs are of "Leftist" character and are not in conformity with the present stage of national and democratic revolution".

The slogans, in fact, added some kind of uniformity to the hotchpotch of architecture used in Government buildings, schools and factories. Broad bands of red, with the white script across them extolling the virtues of the revolution, were obligatory.

But everywhere today Government painters were at work on ladders and leaning out of windows, splashing buckets of red paint over the white script. Inside offices signs were taken down and even chipped off walls and advertising posters stuck over the offending area.

Photographs of party and state leaders, past and present, are being collected from offices everywhere. In future, permission to put up a slogan must be

obtained from the Committee of Theory and Publicity of the Central Committee of the party.

The decision to efface the slogans coincides with a broad cast made by the President, which seems to be an attempt to mollify the Muslim leaders who declared a holy war against the revolutionary regimes and the Russians.

Beginning his broadcast "In the name of God, the Compassionate and Merciful", the President said he wanted to guarantee the freedom of the people to worship Islam. Any religious leaders who had fled the country could return without fear or persecution, provided that they "do not take any action against national or state interests".

The broadcast blamed the persecution of the mulahs on "the treacherous Amin and his criminal band" and says that some of the religious leaders were forced into exile where they were affected by "the enemy counter-revolutionary propaganda".

The tone of the broadcast is further evidence that the President and his Soviet advisors think it would be tactically wrong to continue the repression.

Egypt cuts Russia's Cairo staff

Cairo, Jan 28—President Sadat of Egypt said today that Moscow must reduce the size of its diplomatic staff here to seven and that all remaining Soviet experts must go. The present Russian staff is more than 50.

Both moves were in retaliation for the Soviet Union's intervention in Afghanistan.

Egypt announced earlier this month that the Russians must reduce their diplomatic staff in Cairo to the level of Egypt's representation in Moscow as a result of the Afghan episode. But until today the extent of the required cut was not known.

Until now these experts have also worked with Egyptian engineers at the Soviet-built Aswan high dam.

In a wide-ranging two-and-a-half hour speech to Parliament President Sadat dwelt at length on his grievances against the Soviet Union, Iran, and countries of the Arab world, which have condemned his peace treaty with Israel.

Defending the treaty, he said he remained committed to negotiating autonomy for Palestinians on the Jordan West Bank and Gaza Strip despite the "insults and meanness from the so-called Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO)".

On Saudi Arabia, President Sadat said the attack against the Grand Mosque at Mecca last November was political action. Saudi Arabia has always insisted that it was carried out by religious fanatics.

Nevertheless, Mr Kennedy made it clear that he supported the main tenets of the Administration's policy to contain Soviet aggression.

Today's speech had been carefully prepared and rehearsed by Mr Kennedy and his staff. In the wake of last

week's embarrassing defeat in the first real test of his popularity—the Iqra precinct caucuses—he knows he has to make a real impact during the next few days and weeks if his challenge to an incumbent President is not to crumble completely.

On Iran, Mr Kennedy went a little further in public than Mr Carter, has in calling for an international investigation of the alleged crimes of the exiled Shah to help secure the release of the 50 hostages still being held in the American Embassy in Tehran. The inquiry could be set up immediately and then begin its work once the hostages had been released, he suggested.

Mr Kennedy was on surer ground when he attacked President Carter for his country's grave economic problems. "Under a Democratic Administration we have had three more years of Republican inflation, three more years of Republican interest rates and three more years of Republican economics", he said.

He called for the immediate adoption of a petrol rationing plan and the prompt introduction of a "six-month freeze on inflation"—followed by mandatory controls, as long as necessary, across the board—not only on prices and wages, but also on profits, dividends, interest rates and rent."

The rest of his response to the twin crises in Iran and Afghanistan, and the "Carter doctrine" spelled out last week in the President's State of the Union message, criticized the Administration for three years of "uncertain policy and certain crisis", of an inconsistent foreign policy that may confront us with a stark choice between treachery and war."

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American naval and air forces

have been sent to the Persian Gulf to help contain the situation.

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It seems unlikely, however, that today's speech will win him the public attention he seeks.

For a start it coincided, rather unhelpfully, with the publication of all the details of President Carter's budget for the next financial year.

The President of Chile has also announced a boycott.

A large Senate majority in favour of the resolution is expected.

Our Foreign Staff writes: Barring war or natural disaster, the summer games will stay in Moscow, a source on the International Olympic Committee said in Switzerland.

There are only two possibilities: either the games take place as scheduled in Moscow or else they are cancelled. If they are cancelled, there would have to be a situation of force-majeure under IOC rules, such as a world war or a natural disaster", the source said.

The Belgian Olympic Committee has decided not to buy the Moscow games.

Mrs Indira Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister, said on radio that India would probably take part in the Moscow games.

By contrast, Mr Maaoui, the Prime Minister of Morocco, declared that his country was "completely in agreement with a boycott", according to official reports from Gabon, where he is on a visit.

The state-run Saudi press agency said Bahrain had decided to boycott the Moscow games.

The President of Chile has also announced a boycott.

Business News, page 17

Dr Sakharov retains Academy membership

From Michael Binyon

Dr Gary Marchik, a mathematician and vice-president of the Soviet Academy of Sciences, who now becomes chairman of

OVERSEAS

Iran's new President sets about curbing influence of students

Tehran, Jan 28.—The students occupying the United States embassy here today rejected the statement by Mr Abolhassan Bani-Sadr, the president-elect, that they formed a potential rival government. They said not all decisions should go through Government channels.

A student spokesman said they approved of Mr Bani-Sadr as the popular choice for President but insisted on their right to disagree with his views.

In a broadcast interview last night, Mr Bani-Sadr said he accepted that everyone had the right to express views, provided that the "founding organizations" were able to carry out their tasks.

"But if in Iran we have two governments, for example one the students... and the second one the Revolutionary Council, this condition is not acceptable," he added.

If the students were going to dictate policy, then the Government should be under their control, he said. "But if it is supposed that there will be a Government, its decisions must be carried out."

The dispute was touched off by a student statement on Saturday condemning the Government's decision to attend the conference of Islamic foreign ministers in Islamabad on the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan.

Mr Bani-Sadr, who emphasized that he was not at the meeting of the ruling Revolutionary Council which decided to send a delegate to Islamabad, said the students should have listened to the council's reasons for the decision even if they were not convinced.

The Ayatollah Khomeini after leaving his hospital bed briefly yesterday. He is recovering from a heart condition.



The Ayatollah Khomeini after leaving his hospital bed briefly yesterday. He is recovering from a heart condition.

Attack on town in Tunisia

Paris, Jan 28.—The Tunisian mining town of Gafsa was under heavy Army and police guard today after a guerrilla attack at the weekend on a Tunisian Army barracks.

Reliable sources in Tunis said that communications with the town, 220 miles south-west of Tunis, on the fringe of the Sahara desert, were still cut.

Fighting began early yesterday and continued throughout the day, the Tunis sources said. The guerrilla force, which included foreigners, numbered about 300. Inhabitants of the town reported seeing helicopters and movements of armoured vehicles.

There are no official figures, but the sources said well over 20 people were dead and there were many wounded.

A group opposed to the Destour Party regime of President Habib Bourguiba—the Tunisian Resistance Army—claimed responsibility for the attack in a statement issued in Paris. Describing the regular Tunisian Army as an "oppressive tool", it said 300 Tunisian soldiers were killed and the Gafsa hospital was filled with wounded.

The statement also claimed that a special helicopter had to rescue President Bourguiba, who was in the region. It added that Mirage jets "which the Tunisian Army does not have", flew over Gafsa to which had "welcomed this great event with sympathy and enthusiasm".

The attack was timed to coincide with the second anniversary of a trade union uprising, the statement said. Several union leaders were jailed after a general strike and rioting in January 1978.

The Tunis-Arabe-Presse agency said last night that Gafsa was calm after the guerrillas retreated into the hills, and that a large number were captured.

Algerian Government sources have expressed "surprise and regret" at accusations that the guerrillas came across the Algerian border.

Officials in Tunis said many of the troops normally stationed in Gafsa had been in the neighbouring town of Nefta, where president Bourguiba was on holiday, at the time of the raid. —Agence France-Presse and Reuter.

Syrian troop moves worry Israel

From Christopher Walker

Jerusalem, Jan 28

Reports of Syrian troop and

artillery movements inside

Lebanon are causing concern to

the Israeli Government and to

its allies in southern Lebanon,

the Christian militia com-

manded by Major Saad Haddad.

In an interview on Israeli

radio today Major Haddad

claimed that Syrian troops had

advanced to within three and

six miles of his own lines. "The

Syrians are bringing in more

tanks, more guns and more

equipment," he said. "They are

preparing for a real battle and

I think it is directed not only

against us. It is also directed

against Israel." No immediate

confirmation of his claims was

available.

Before the interview took

place, Major Haddad's militias

had been involved in one of the

worst artillery exchanges ex-

perienced in southern Lebanon

since a shaky ceasefire between

the right-wing Christians and

the Palestinian guerrillas began

last August.

The firing lasted most of last

night and resulted in the

wounding of a number of

Lebanese civilians, including

three children.

It is known that the Israeli

Cabinet received classified

briefings on Syrian activities in

Lebanon at its regular meeting

yesterday. These were given by

Israel, he said, had to be on its guard because of the concentration of Syrian forces in Lebanon.

Controversy over Syrian military plans and manoeuvres has been simmering for the past two weeks. It was initially provoked when a senior Israeli army officer told a delegation of British politicians visiting the Colosseum that President Assad was "interested in war with Israel, both because he wants to torpedo the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty and because of the shaky domestic situation".

Western diplomatic sources believe that the chances of a full-scale confrontation between Syria and Israel at present are remote. But there is concern in some Israeli circles about a possible escalation of incidents initially involving only Major Haddad's forces.

Disquiet about Syria's intentions has been increased by the three-day visit to Damascus this week by Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet foreign minister. Commenting on the visit today, Mr Menachem

Begin, the Israeli Prime Minister, remarked that Mr Gromyko had promised help to Syria against an Israeli attack, but had never been considered.

Speaking to a Canadian delegation in Jerusalem, Mr Begin emphasized that Israel had no intention of attacking Syria.

Even before the present increase in tension many Israeli army commanders had been worried by the far-reaching improvements to the Syrian forces effected over the past six years.

According to one military expert, the number of tanks at Syria's disposal has increased from 1,600 in 1973 to 2,200. The number of commando troops is said to have trebled and there has been heavy investment in air defences and aircraft, notably MiG 25s and Sukhoi 22 tactical combat aircraft.

Officials in Jerusalem expressed annoyance, but they did not regard the delays as a breach of the protocol annexed to the peace treaty. This provides for the establishment of diplomatic and consular relations and an exchange of ambassadors upon completion of Israel's interim withdrawal from Sinai, and that was completed on Friday.

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According to one military expert, the number of tanks at Syria's disposal has increased from 1,600 in 1973 to 2,200. The number of commando troops is said to have trebled and there has been heavy investment in air defences and aircraft, notably MiG 25s and Sukhoi 22 tactical combat aircraft.

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According

OVERSEAS

Dissidents of Mugabe group return from Mozambique detention

From Nicholas Ashford
Salisbury, Jan 28

There were emotional scenes at Salisbury airport today when a group of dissident former senior members of Mr Robert Mugabe's Zanu (PF) organization returned to Rhodesia after being detained in Mozambique. The group, which included 62 men, two women and two babies, was flown from Beira in a Royal Air Force Hercules and belonging to the Commonwealth monitoring force.

The group included a number of officials who had been prominent in the party's military and political leadership. Among them were Mr Elias Hondo, Mr Dzinase Machingura and Mr Augustus Mudzingwa who were members of the high command of the Zimbabwe People's Army (Zipa) which was set up at the end of 1975 in an attempt to unite the guerrilla wings of Mr Mugabe's Zanu and Mr Joshua Nkomo's Zapi organizations.

They were detained in January, 1977, after the Geneva conference because they were solidly behind the leadership of Mr. Mugabe and Mr. Josiah Tongogara (the commander of Mr. Mugabe's army who died in a car accident last month) on ideological and strategic grounds.

Among others who were freed were members of the Zanu national executive and central committee, including Mr Mukudzi Mudzi, the party's former secretary for foreign affairs. Mr Rugare Gumbo,

former secretary for information, Mr Henry Hamadziripi, former secretary for manpower planning, and Mr Christopher Mandizvira, former secretary for production.

This group was detained in January, 1978, after letters were found indicating that they intended to overthrow the present leadership of Zanu (PF) by force. They also favoured fusion with Zapi and wanted their party to follow a more radical political line. They were also critical of Zanu's military performance.

Their release, which came after considerable British pressure on Zanu (PF), and President Samora Machel of Mozambique, could have a considerable impact on the outcome of next month's election.

Most of them are members of the Karanga tribe from around Fort Victoria which accounts for about 30 per cent of the country's black population. Historically, the Karangas were thought to be solidly behind Zanu (PF), but their loyalties could be divided if the dissidents stand for other parties.

Three of them—Mr Mudzi, Mr Hamadziripi and Mr Mandizvira—have already been nominated as candidates for the Victoria province by the National Front of Zimbabwe (NFZ), a party recently set up with the deliberate intention of woning away from Mr. Mugabe.

However, it is not known whether they will wish to represent such a small and little-known party.

S African presence in Rhodesia attacked

From Henry Strohme
Salisbury, Jan 28

Mr Rajeshwar Dayal of India, who is leading the 11-strong Commonwealth group of observers at next month's Rhodesian elections, raised the activities of Rhodesia's security forces auxiliaries and the presence of South African troops at Beit Bridge when he met Lord Soames, the Governor, here this morning.

He said at the observers' first press conference later that the presence of the South Africans on Rhodesian territory "does violate the atmosphere". But there was no discussion of

Health centres, page 12

Lions attack campers in Kenya park

From Charles Harrison
Nairobi, Jan 28

Attacks on campers by two full-grown lions in the Aberdare National Park, 30 miles from here have caused Kenyan wildlife authorities to consider what action to take.

The authorities have denied speculation that the attacks could be the work of former tame lions rehabilitated by Mr. George Aderson, whose wife, Joy, the author of *Born Free*, was recently murdered in Kenya. No such lions have been introduced into the Aberdare park, an official said today.

In the latest incident, Mr. Tom Heaton, a BBC official stationed in Nairobi, narrowly escaped when the two lions attacked another camper's tent alongside his own tent in the park.

An official of the Kenyan wildlife conservation department said there had been several reports from the same area of the national park. One possibility is that these lions may have been captured and moved to another area where there are no facilities for camping.

India lagging in airport equipment

From Richard Wigg
Delhi, Jan 28

India is lagging seriously in the provision of appropriate airport equipment to accommodate modern aircraft and the expanded volume of air traffic, according to Mr P. C. Lal, chairman of both the country's international and internal airlines.

Inadequate ground and navigation aids at Indian airports had proved a handicap to Air India and Indian Airlines performances, Mr Lal complained. He listed the absence of instrument landing systems and runway lights.

Speaking out only a few days before he retires, Mr Lal only confirms what many who travel frequently in India have found out for themselves through time-wasting experience.

Such facts as Mr Lal has brought out are not exactly bruited abroad, nor has anyone the clear authority among many existing airport bodies to ensure that the necessary action is taken, even after official commissions of inquiry into accidents.

Canton appeal for 10-year fight to end repression

From Francis Deron
of Agence France-Presse
Peking, Jan 28

Dissidents in Canton have solemnly appealed to all Chinese activists to unite against repression in a long-term trial of strength with the authorities lasting "maybe 10 years".

A two-page duplicated appeal, dated January 10, was sent to all activist groups to emerge from last spring's democracy and human rights movement in big cities throughout the country and received at the Agence France-Presse office today. It was signed by three unofficial Canton magazines—*Upurge*, *People Street* and *Life*.

The appeal said that in some areas, including Chongqing and Wuhan in central China and Tianjin (near Peking) and Canton, distribution of non-official publications had been banned already.

In the past few days political activism has come in for another tongue-lashing from Deng Xiaoping, the Deputy Prime Minister, during a cadre's meeting in Peking. According to well-informed sources, he had some hard words for "big character" posters.

Mr Deng is reported to have described them as "not beneficial" for China today because the country must dedicate itself to economic construction.

Korea assassin to die
Seoul, Jan 28.—A military appeals court here today confirmed the death sentence imposed on Kim Jae Kyu, the former director of the South Korean Central Intelligence Agency (KCIA), for assassinating President Park Chung Hee three months ago.

Japan army chief goes
Tokyo, Jan 28.—Lieutenant-General Shigenobu Nagano, Japan's Army Chief-of-Staff, resigned today and 11 senior defence officials and officers were disciplined in connexion with the country's biggest peacetime spy scandal.

SPORT

Cricket

Randall pushing for a Test place

From Jack Fingleton
Canberra, Jan 28

In humid weather, with a storm always imminent in the late afternoon, the English did not seem overkeen to get batting practice in an early pitch to prepare themselves for the third and final Test against Australia in Melbourne next Friday.

Randall, whose Test place is in some doubt, impressed with a flowing innings that included one tremendous loft over long-on for the only six of the game and this off Beard, a medium pace bowler who bowls like a packet of mixed vegetables—with something of a swing. Randall had a few switch like a leprechaun after a late night, has not had a good tour and could be pushing to hold his Test place against Larke, who has made a decent start.

Their release, which came after considerable British pressure on Zanu (PF), and President Samora Machel of Mozambique, could have a considerable impact on the outcome of next month's election.

Most of them are members of the Karanga tribe from around Fort Victoria which accounts for about 30 per cent of the country's black population. Historically, the Karangas were thought to be solidly behind Zanu (PF), but their loyalties could be divided if the dissidents stand for other parties.

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Health centres, page 12

accusations over breaches of the Lancaster House ceasefire agreement by guerrillas.

There was no significance in this, he said in reply to repeated questioning. Perhaps it would be raised at the next meeting. Today's session, he added, was positive and cooperative and he was sure there would be close cooperation between Lord Soames and the observers.

Their task, he said, was to ensure that the elections were free and fair. They had already been assured that all the political parties taking part would be given equal treatment.

Health centres, page 12

Asif's last Test

Calcutta, Jan 28.—Pakistan's captain Asif Iqbal said today he would retire from Test cricket after the sixth and final Test against India starting here tomorrow. Asif, 36, has played in 57 Tests since 1964.

Nottingham programme

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Fashion

by
Prudence Glynn

■ Right: Vyvyan Lorryne, ex Royal Ballet and now hoping to establish a company of her own wears the newest outfitts from the Dance Centre. Called Combo, they are what they seem, towelling trousers, tops, jackets etc all in combinations of brilliant contrast colours. There are also dresses and dressing robes to match. This suit is £38.90 by mail order also p and p 75p.

■ Far right: Silky Lycra shorts and top from the Dance Centre. £17.70 leg warmers £5.40 reversible jacket, towelling lined £44.60 all from The Dance Centre, 12 Floral Street, London, W.C.2.

■ Below and bottom: A chorus line at Pineapple, 7, Langley Street, London, W.C.2. All the clothes are available at their shop. Average prices £10 for an amazing assortment of body wear. Fashion moves into everyday life with the American Dream via cheap travel....

Photographs by Harry Keen

"They can because they think they can" runs the caption to a photograph of two seagulls soaring through space. For my part, peering through the re-enforced glass doors (against crash-landings?) into the practice studio, I know that even had I been thinking ever since Virgil wrote that tag I would not be able to do what they are doing in there. Indubitably earthbound, with not a Daedalus ambition to my makeup I observe a sea of lisome pulchritude kicking their heels up over their heads. If this is the keep fit class, whatever are the professionals like?

But this is not the keep fit class, this is the professionals, an audition no less for a TV commercial. Forty hopefuls, 14 needed, so at this sentence hard-line feminists who believe that for a woman to earn a living by her beauty and grace is degrading should turn the page. Karen, Jackie, Sharon and Debbie with their multitude of accents seem very well content with their lot.

"See you tomorrow for the guard dog job" they call to one another when not invited to stay. (no-one ever says they are out, it is all very positive) donning motley fur coats over transparent Lycra body suits and grabbing a nourishing and healthy snack en route for the subterranean changing rooms.

Next door, through equally grand jeté-proof glass, I see is Degas and decorum. The fifth position comes easily to girls of my background, since it is the natural way of walking over the plough, but, even after another look at those seagulls and that Virgil I am not sure I could manage so much as a plié. Classical ballet lessons in your lunch hour; grip, bags behind the piano. Tomorrow Covent Garden... and rather more shapes one could identify with.

Pineapple Dance Centre Club at 7, Langley Street WC2, tel: 01-836 4004 used to be a warehouse for the fruit of its name. Now it is a bustling rendezvous for those who want to get trim, stay trim, look younger, look better, feel better or get a job. To be a member costs only £10 a year, £5 for a child (visions of Shirley Temple) or £13 for a parent and child plus VAT. You can be a ballet beginner or a disco dizzler so far as I can see. The cost for classes varies between £1 and £2. New in February will be gymnastic dance for children, whose classes are sensibly put on a Saturday.

Around the corner from Pineapple is the Dance Centre 12, Floral Street, WC2, tel 836 6544. The Dance Centre is indeed to true begetter of Pineapple, since the latter started up by popular demand when the former closed for redecoration and enlargement. The Dance Centre now has an oriental garden with pools, all very James Bond, a big bright shop which sells everything from classic exercise dance clothes through to mini evening gowns and quality jewelry. It is also a wholesale company, supplying shapes all over the country. Cartons of cummerbunds, leotars, Lycra shorts, tops, track suits etc are being tossed up the steps of the stockroom for delivery to the aching bodies of Britain who has at last cottoned on to the fact that fashion today is



very much your body and who have been stretching and bending on their foam rubber exercise mats ever since in an attempt to measure up to the revelations of modern fashion—no linings all those sheer fabrics, tight waists, and now the shorter skirt. No wonder the Dance Centre has a class in karate.

Fashion on this page is inalienable from beauty, both in the cosmetic and the health sense. I suspect a number of readers may associate the name Avon with those common ding-dong doorbells and I should blame myself for not having made more of a point—particularly to those who live out of town and who find the cost of travel; however prohibitive of the value and standards of the world's biggest cosmetic company. That they are also the biggest suppliers of costume jewelry did come as a surprise

at the launch of their new range of cosmetics last week.

The range is called Enviria, which those of you who complete the crossword will immediately recognize as heavy with portent. Portentous it is, for a mass market product, for it is based on the research of eminent dermatologists, one of whom addressed the company which gathered snuggly in the comfortable or even the cheerfully as faintly down-market from the serious business of medicine. A few spots command little more than the overworked 'GP's time, so readers say.

It was not always so. For thousands of years the skin and its manifestations were the symptoms of the killer diseases, says Dr John Burton BSC, MD, FRCP Senior Lecturer in Dermatology at the University of Bristol. Every doctor knew his skin—he had to. Then, around the 1930s medicine conquered tuberculosis, syphi-

ENTERTAINMENTS

Small acts at 6.30 p.m.
Students just before performance

When telephoning use prefix 01 only
Outside London Metropolitan Area

OPERA AND BALLET

COVENT GARDEN, EC 2 340 1000 (Gardiner, 01-580 4000)
THE ROYAL OPERA HOUSE
TOULOUSE, 05 61 20 0000
THE ROYAL BALLET
TICKETS: 01-580 5000, 01-580 5001
Even 10.30 a.m. or 6.30 p.m.
Even 10.30 a.m. or 6.30 p.m.
COLISEUM, Covent Garden, 240 5200
ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA
TICKETS: 01-580 5000, 01-580 5001
Even 10.30 a.m. or 6.30 p.m.
SADLER'S WELLS THEATRE, Rosebery Avenue, EC 1 1076, Covent Garden, 207 3000
DOLLY CARTS, 7, Langley Street, W.C.2
IN-CHARGE: JULIANNE, 01-580 5000
S.O.S. PARADE, 7, Langley Street, W.C.2
THE MIRAGE, 7, Langley Street, W.C.2

CONCERTS

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL, 101-202
31211, TENTERDEN, 01-580 5000
S.O.S. PARADE, 7, Langley Street, W.C.2
SADLER'S WELLS THEATRE, Rosebery Avenue, EC 1 1076, Covent Garden, 207 3000
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S.O.S. PARADE, 7, Langley Street, W.C.2
THE MIRAGE, 7, Langley Street, W.C.2

THEATRES

ADLPHEN, 2-301 0-622 7611
MY FAIR LADY, 01-580 5000
Even, Thursdays at 7.45
TONY BRITTON, 01-580 5000
LIE ROBERT, 01-580 5000
THE WORLD'S GREATEST MUSICAL
MY FAIR LADY, 01-580 5000

OLIVER, 01-580 5000
GEORGE LAVERTON, 01-580 5000
CHILD FREE with each ADULT valid
20 JTS or 1000 of purchase of person
ALICE IN WONDERLAND, 01-580 5000
ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY
TICKETS: 01-580 5000, 01-580 5001
GIGI, 01-580 5000
4,000 & A THOUSAND TIMES
MIRACULOUS MUSICAL, 01-580 5000

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THE ARTS

Misapprehensions of modernism

Stephen Edlich
Marlborough Fine Art
Contemporary

Yugoslav Art
Mall Galleries

Images I
Goethe Institute

Scottie Wilson
Margaret Fisher

Though we are now in the 1980s, we still do not seem, somehow, to have quite got used to the idea that we are in the twentieth century at all. There are still critics and artists who will cheerfully dismiss as mad young tearaways bent on demolishing the very fabric of art, people the centenary of whose birth we have already celebrated. One often meets self-styled art lovers who readily claim not to understand all this obscure modern stuff, thus writing off incomprehensible advanced works which were created years before they were born. What was experimental in 1910 is still experimental, and seems likely to remain so indefinitely: the tradition of the "modern" is now as rigid and codified as the tradition of the traditional.

A point nicely taken in the current exhibition of the work of Stephen Edlich, a New York artist in his mid-thirties who specializes, at the moment, in mixed-media works (some of them rather large) which are all abstract, or on the brink of abstraction, and all contain at least an element of collage. So, evidently, he is—he must be—one of those difficult, experimental, in a word, modern artists. But no, responds Mr Edlich mildly. On the contrary, he is a very traditional, one might almost now say classical artist. After all, he is representative of a good, long-established tradition. Braque and Picasso and Goya were using collage to similar effect in their analytical cubist years before the First World War. From another direction, Schwitters and his fellow Dadaists were arriving at a rather similar result with assemblages of papers and objects nearly 70 years ago. And in yet a third perspective, Ben Nicholson was working with very slight variations of relief and texture—which is also a vital part of this approach—in the early 1930s. (One might also add that even such an approachable, apparently Establishment artist as John Piper has been bringing these same elements together in different proportions for going on fifty years now, and no one seems to turn a hair.)

So, then, at least Mr Edlich has academically excellent credentials. Yet the proof of an artist's work is not what went in, but what comes out. And here Edlich scores heavily. He



Persecution by Vladimir Velickovic (1977), from Contemporary Yugoslav Art

has an admirable colour sense—he is strong on ochres and ambers, browns and golds and fauns relieved with strong clear greens and simmering black-blues. And, which is always a good sign, in his work the bigger the better: whereas many large paintings today feel uncomfortably like small paintings mechanically blown up to impress, he occupies a large area with total confidence. I particularly enjoy his works nearest to actual representation: especially the series which hint at open doors and half-climbed arches and trees beyond. At least, I think they do, and appreciate the ambiguity of my own insights.

The show of Contemporary Yugoslav Art, sponsored in this country by the British Council, does not in any way make the kind of unified or coherent impression one might expect from its simple title. The selectors suggest, modestly, that though it can hardly be comprehensive, considering the enormous amount of artistic activity going on in Yugoslavia at the moment, its election of 105 works by 25 artists does try to present some kind of cross-section of what Yugoslav artists are doing and how they are doing it. If this is indeed so, we might assume that little if any modern art in Yugoslavia has a specifically local character—the nearest I could see is the work of one painter, Jozef Ciuha, whose graphic style slightly suggests the films of the famous Zgrelj cartoon studios—and that they do not much on photo-realism—there is

wrong for cello and piano, which left an initial impression of competent mediocrity, but which by the end of the evening had come to seem a near-masterpiece, so far did it outshine anything that followed.

Brian Noyes is an 'obverse case, for his *Voyages* contained manifest miscalculations of instrumental texture, besides being long-winded, often unsure of his direction, and unable to decide on a coherent harmonic style. Yet for all that, there was the sense of something pressing to be heard through the fog of technical mismanagement. It is possible that Noyes is a composer struggling to be born, but I can hold no such hopes

The reason for that supposition is that Sanderling is not a conductor to assault his audience by the emotions; his suave, refined manner is of the kind that repays close attention and long acquaintance. His ninth was not, therefore, a titanic affair, but a measured, well-considered one that nevertheless ascended to quite thrilling peaks in the choral finale. For that, some of the credit must go to the Philharmonic Chorus and to the strong but pleasantly smooth-grained team of soloists: Sally Burgess, Carolyn Watson, Robin Leggate and Malcolm King.

The Choral Fantasy is a work easier to mock for its falling just short of heroic stature than to justify in performance. With John Lill as soloist, Sanderling succeeded admirably, refraining from making too much of obvious gestures in order to produce the big effect when he required it.

September 13, but Tchaikovsky on May 7 should be good news for the box-office.

The LSO chose for Mozart's birthday concert the very last symphony, the Jupiter, and the greatest of his sacred works, the C minor Mass, which was his pledge for marriage with Constance Weber, who sang the wonderful "Et incarnatus est" in the first performance.

That the C minor Mass has come down to us incomplete never bothers me in performance. The authentic portions in Robbins London's modern edition (normally used these days), make a satisfactory integer, more satisfactory than the usual version of the also incomplete *Requiem*, a successful torso, I think.

Abbado used too large a chorus and orchestra, I thought for the Mass. He treated it very formally, not at all expressively, yet with a respect that did credit to Mozart's

and Slavko Tihac's sculptures in bronze, wood or polyester. These are very difficult to describe adequately: elaborate illusionist constructions, they use the techniques of wood or steel engraving on a very large scale dimensionally, to create images of figures within single planes. That probably does not make much sense unless you have seen one, but the effect in their presence is quite hallucinatory.

I am not sure that I would say so much of "the Hamburg art scene" on the strength of Part I of the Goethe Institute's current exploration, which features two artists, Adam Jaworski and Konrad Schulz (two men who occupy the same workspace will follow in February). They are not bad mind you, but their work is rather the small change of art such as one could probably find in virtually any European city of any size. Jaworski is an exponent of photo-realism, pointing in painstaking detail on quite sizable canvases what appear to be very accurate and detailed reproductions of photographs, including all the out-of-focus areas. He was a founder of the "Montag" group, concerned "in an experimental way with everyday problems", whatever that may mean. Schulz is more interesting, particularly in his slightly surrealistic objects like the door of a phone booth shaped into a chair (called, naturally enough, "Sitting Door") or the broom and spade which have themselves adopted a sitting position on a park bench. But again, his drawings of crowd violence and his work with photocollages is capable but hardly more than routine.

Quite the contrary—in fact very odd indeed—is the body of work on show in Margaret Fisher's enterprising house-gallery at 2 Lambolle Road, Scotland. Wilson was a primitive who did not try his hand at art at all until he was 40. After the war he was taken up by the English Surrealists, and last year he turned up in the slightly ambiguous context of the *Outsiders* show at the Hayward, among the naif, the faux-naif, the visionary and the psychotic. Actually he was a bit of all of these things (except psychotic), and is not entirely at home with any of them. The drawings, watercolours and ceramics in the present one-man show offer an amazingly consistent, virtually unchanging vision: the faces and fishes and fountains and strange birds (often with strong unconscious sexual undertones) are all rendered in the same web of fine lines, the same obsessive herringbone patterning, and, when colour is used, the same bright peasant colours. Though some of the drawings (mostly early, it seems) are a touch sinister, for the most part it is a happy little world, out there on its own somewhere, east of the sun, west of the moon, and just south of Belsize Square.

I was also struck by Adriana Marin's large colour etchings of vaguely humanoid figures. Mersed Berber's *Infinite Margarita*, with their jewel-like colouring, somewhat suggestive of an icon, applied invariably but with seeming naturalness to their Spanish subject-matter.

John Russell Taylor

Tingay/Heath
Purcell Room

Frank Dobbins

The flute and harp are natural partners; but besides their ancient origin and complementary acoustical qualities the repertoire of music specifically conceived for the duet combination is somewhat limited. Thus in their quest for variety David Heath (flute) and Gillian Tingay (harp), who had collaborated in a concert at the Purcell Room last year, were compelled to cast their nets widely.

They began their concert on Saturday with a sonata by Telemann originally written for flute and continuo; this proved an injudicious choice since the harp's notes resonate too freely for the clarity required in the contrapuntal lines of fugal allegro.

Mr Heath showed a greater sense of style in Charles Widör's "Suite" for Flute and Piano which, despite the people's implicit notion of its title, is a late idiomatic fantasia which proves a fine vehicle for the performer's considerable virtuosity. A certain flexibility, perhaps born of his experience in jazz, lent much charm to his interpretation of two Japanese folksongs arranged for flute and harp and of his own "Out of the cool".

The harp support returned in two more idiomatic French duets—Ibert's "Entracte" and Gossec's "Tambourin", as well as a wistful arrangement of Ravel's *Pavane pour une infante défunte*. But Gillian Tingay revealed her mastery most impressively in solos by John Parry, Nino Rota and a Basque composer blessed with the name Jésus Guridi.

rhythms and changes of harmony, without equating Mozart's present with his inheritance. Such a conductor as Bruno Walter sometimes went too far, but came closer to my own Mozart ideal.

There was some appreciable singing from the London Symphony Chorus, much striking artistry from the LSO; the finest music-making, closest to what I conceive as the essential Mozart, came from Margaret Price in "Et incarnatus est", and in the haunting phrases of "Christe eleison", and from Frederica von Stade in "Laudamus te", the rhythm and divisions dubious, the tone and expression perfectly ideal.

Abbado's account of the Jupiter was, for me, much too formal, unwilling to delve into the personal mysteries of the music, content to characterize the material and balance it neatly.

Maxwell Davies and the Boston birthday symphony



Photograph by Jonathan Player

Accolades have lately fallen thick upon Peter Maxwell Davies: he has been chosen as "composer of the year" by the Composers' Guild, as director of music at Dartington Summer School and as guest of honour at this year's Edinburgh Festival, besides acquiring a couple of honorary doctorates. None counts for more in the broader context, however, than the commission of his second symphony as one of the major events in the centenary season of the Boston Symphony Orchestra. It will be given its world premiere under Seiji Ozawa in February next year. The large and growing number of performances of Maxwell Davies's music in America (and the amount of representative playing and empty space at the Festival Hall last week for his Second *Taverner Fantasia*) suggest that this profile is not without honour even in the parts of his own country where technique and taste slightly lag.

The American connexion goes back as far as Dartington in 1956, when Maxwell Davies was no more than 22. There he met Aaron Copland, who was sufficiently impressed by the Five Pieces for Piano, opus 2, to suggest study in the United States and to offer a reference. Copland's interest was no doubt partly responsible for the commission, two years later, of *Ricercar* and *Doubls* in the Dartmouth Festival. Soon Maxwell Davies took up Copland's offer, and in 1962 he started a two-year Harkness Fellowship at Princeton, the other referees being Benjamin Britten. He won the Koussevitzky Recording Award after the issue of his *Leopardi Fragments*; the Koussevitzky Foundation thus commissioned *Resurrection* and *Fall*—which it thought impossible to sing, play and conduct until, ironically, it heard a British commercial recording.

Subsequently Maxwell Davies has taught and heard his work played at Junglewood—a place with strong ties to Boston—and Aspen; but the clincher, from the viewpoint of the American musical world, came with his first symphony. Triumphant premières by the Philharmonia Orchestra and Simon Rattle in London just two years ago, in October 1978, it was given four performances by the New York Philharmonic and Zubin Mehta. Still glowing from the general reception, Maxwell Davies returned to his self-imposed isolation in Orkney, where he writes his music undisturbed by so much as a telephone.

"It was in Orkney that I received a telegram from Ozawa, saying would I please ring him on this Boston number. Now that does present difficulties. But I went over to the main island to do some shopping, and I phoned him, and he said: 'Would you like to write a piece for us?' We arranged to meet

at the Edinburgh Festival last year, we talked about it, and then, at a party for the Boston Symphony Orchestra, he told them about the commission. A lot of the orchestra came up and talked to me about pieces of mine they had played in, and they seemed very keen on the idea."

For the moment Maxwell Davies has too much other work to begin the new symphony; he intends to start it in April and finish in October, finding a place for Dartington and the Orkney Festival in between. The delay is frustrating. "It's going to be on the same kind of scale as the other symphony" (which is for large orchestra and lasts the best part of an hour). "I'm completely obsessed by the opening, which is going round and round in my head. There's this great swirling sound, and some timpani strokes, and then eventually the trumpets come in... In some ways it's going to be very much like another Boston commission, Bartók's Concerto for Orchestra. In one sense it's going to be a concerto for orchestra. I'm

really going to write some virtuoso stuff; there's a big difference between something that's quirky and difficult but which repays the effort the player puts into it. And Boston will be able to play it."

The orchestration of the first symphony was unusual for the fact that the percussion includes only those instruments playing definite pitches (glockenspiel and so on), which were given fixedly difficult parts, and for the absence of tuba. "The tuba part will be given a sensational success through 90 performances in Copenhagen and of which an independent London run last year fell through for lack of funds. Throughout Europe, as far away as Australia and New Zealand, in the States, of course, and with an exciting new recognition this is for British music—Maxwell Davies is seen as representing what is currently the best we can do; it could only be to the good if his wares were also on display at our leading house."

ing to Mozart's *Requiem* the other night I thought, here's something that's all about death but, my God, it's a life-giving piece."

Maxwell Davies's works have all sorts of subtle interrelationships. Commentators have seen the first symphony as the culmination of a sort of "hyper-symphony", the earlier "movements" being *Worlds*, *Bliss*, *St Thomas Wake* and *Stone Litens*; and have seen his music as two interlinked solar systems revolving around *Taverner* and the first symphony. The second symphony, the composer claims, will have no deliberate relationship to what has gone before: "Nothing specific. Except that having written the first symphony I know better what I can do and how to do it. The first symphony was the best composition lesson I ever had... and rather a long one."

Before the second symphony we shall hear *Cinderella*, a children's opera for the primary school at Kirkwall, and *The Lighthouse*, a chamber opera recalling the mysterious disappearance of lighthousemen off Stromness in 1900. Both are full-length works and will be given this year respectively at the Orkney (and Buxton) and Edinburgh Festivals. Also in hand is *Black Pentecost*, a 35-minute work for three voices and full orchestra which bears "a rather tenuous relationship" to the withdrawn *Armchair Thriller* piece of the same name which was the germ of the first symphony. This has a text by George Mackay Brown about uranium-mining in Orkney and is "frankly a propaganda piece"; the Philharmonic has scheduled it for 1982, again with Simon Rattle. Other commitments include a piano sonata for Stephen Pruslin to play at the 1981 Bath Festival.

And always there remains a relationship, warm on both sides but not exactly steady, with Covent Garden. They would like Maxwell Davies to write another opera—he has almost completed the text for one to be called *Resurrection*—or a ballet or both. He makes no secret that, as a priority, he would like them to revive *Taverner*, premiered by the Royal Opera in 1972, preferably in a production nearer his original wishes, and to stage *Salome*, the ballet for *Fleming Flute* which had such a sensational success through 90 performances in Copenhagen and of which an independent London run last year fell through for lack of funds. Throughout Europe, as far away as Australia and New Zealand, in the States, of course, and with an exciting new recognition this is for British music—Maxwell Davies is seen as representing what is currently the best we can do; it could only be to the good if his wares were also on display at our leading house.

Christopher Ford

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Barry Millington

Kurt Sanderling and the Philharmonia on Sunday brought their Beethoven Cycle to a rousing conclusion with the Ninth Symphony and the Choral Fantasy. The series of performances was presented, and deserves to be judged, as a cycle. Regrettably, I am unable to do that as I was able to attend only the first and last concerts. I understand that the series has picked up momentum, as well as an audience, since I heard the first two and am nearly there three weeks ago; and I believe that Sunday's ninth could well have been a more rewarding experience for those who loyally sat the cycle out, than for those of us who took the short cut.

LSO/Abbado
Festival Hall

William Mann

Sunday was Mozart's birthday, his 224th. Claudio Abbado and the London Symphony Orchestra, having the Festival Hall for the evening, very properly devoted the programme to Mozart's music. I hope that the idea may catch on. March 21 should be given to the works of J. S. Bach, February 23 to Handel, March 31 to Haydn, December 16 to Beethoven, January 31 to Schubert, and so on. We owe much to them, concert-promoters even more, so let us observe their birthdays, as the Roman Catholic Church does its Saints' days. You might not have a full house for Schoenberg on

September 13, but Tchaikovsky on May 7 should be good news for the box-office.

The LSO chose for Mozart's birthday concert the very last symphony, the Jupiter, and the greatest of his sacred works, the C minor Mass, which was his pledge for marriage with Constance Weber, who sang the wonderful "Et incarnatus est" in the first performance.

That the C minor Mass has come down to us incomplete never bothers me in performance. The authentic portions in Robbins London's modern edition (normally used these days), make a satisfactory integer, more satisfactory than the usual version of the also incomplete *Requiem*, a successful torso, I think.

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Some of the reviews on this page are reprinted from yesterday's later editions

Appointments
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Bernard Levin

By definition, a word to the unwise

You will scarcely believe this, but Mr Shloimovitz is still at it. Of course, if you don't know who Mr Shloimovitz is, you will not know what is the it that he is at, so I had better explain, though you will find a comprehensive account of The Story So Far on pp 210-213 of my recently-published book, *Taking Sides*, Jonathan Cape, signed copies available from Times Special Offers, Selective Market Place, 18 Old Street, London, W1, 26.50 post free, no reduction for quantity (advert).

Mr Shloimovitz has for years and years been campaigning against the inclusion in English dictionaries of derogatory definitions of the word "Jew". As any literate person will know, the word has been used, over the centuries, as a synonym for nouns such as "usurer" and "money-lender", and verbs such as "cheat" and "do down", and dictionaries have therefore included them, since dictionary's function is to record words that exist, and not just words the existence of which causes no offence. This last point is the one that Mr Shloimovitz has been entirely unable to grasp; he has convinced himself that words which cause offence to people who over the centuries have differed from a great deal of offence, much of it by no means confined to the verbal variety, should be banned whether they are used or not. He argues that the preservation of defamatory racial stereotypes by the use of these words helps to perpetuate also anti-semitic attitudes, and therefore that their exclusion from dictionaries will reduce the incidence of anti-semitism.

That, of course, is not only nonsense, but nonsense of a peculiarly

modern kind. Anti-semitism is not caused by words (God knows—if indeed, even He does—what it is caused by), and will not be cured by them, either, and much the same goes for the belief that sex discrimination will likewise be diminished by replacing such now offensive terms as "man" and "woman" by "person".

It is not only nonsense, and peculiarly modern nonsense; it is peculiarly modern American nonsense. Such is the terror experienced by the American liberal establishment at the slightest clearing of the throat by any group sufficiently vociferous and well-organized to suggest publicly that the American liberal establishment is less liberal than it would like to be thought, that they have already reached a position in which committees exist to vet for propriety proposals for university research, lest someone might come up, for instance, with findings that support the work on matters of genetics and intelligence of social scientists like Professor Eysenck and Shostak's steeds; the same tendencies can be seen in this country (has anybody explained why it is that we always seem to borrow the worst of America, never her best?), and it is in the exploitation of one particular variety of the tendencies in question that Mr Shloimovitz has been indefatigable for so long. (I accuse him, of course, of any motive other than the one he professes: to diminish the amount and extent of cruel and unjustified opprobrium for his people—who are, after all, my people too.)

Mr S fought a notable battle with the *OED*, its Supplements and

progeny, and a compromise, which I hailed as an admirable one in the column bereft before mentioned, was reached; Big Daddy and his sons would retain the meanings that so offend Mr Shloimovitz and those who think like him (and incidentally you don't have to be a Jew to find anti-semitism disgusting and dangerous), but would signal clearly, with such references as "derogatory", "offensive" or the familiar "vulg", that these uses, though they undoubtedly exist, should not be found on the lips or in the pens of any decent person. The *OED*, after all, omitted the most gross referring to the sexual and excretory functions, but time passed and they are now learnedly discussed in the Supplements. It is made clear on their behalf too, that such words are not for polite society, and that should be enough for anybody.

But it is not enough for Mr Shloimovitz, who has gone on campaigning to have the offensive words removed from the dictionaries altogether, and has now scored a notable, and in my opinion most lamentable, victory over *Cassell's*, which has removed them from the new edition of its English dictionary (Cassell's is part of the American firm of Macmillan, though I am assured that the policy was not imposed on it).

This really will not do. It is a fact that many people do use the word "Jew" in unqualified pejorative meanings. Until that ceases to be a fact it seems to me a lexicographer's inescapable function to include such meanings. The duty of a dictionary, unlike that of a

treasure, or for that matter a news-paper column, is to record what is, not what in the opinion of the author ought to be, and that duty *Cassell's* seem to me to have failed in this instance to discharge.

And this matters—in my view it matters very much—for two reasons. The first is that, paradoxical though it may sound, this decision is part of the increasing impoverishment of our language—as, indeed, are such horrible neologisms as "chairperson" and "spokesperson". The use of the verb "to Jew", meaning to drive a hard bargain, is undoubtedly offensive; at the same time it is an illustration, and a not entirely unimportant one, of a certain kind of demotic speech which is fast disappearing under the standardizing influences of television, bad newspapers, politicians and what now passes in this country for education.

You may say that this kind of usage is the bath-water, and no doubt it is; but there is no way, in the long run, of retaining the baby if we throw it out.

It is a sin against linguistic integrity; it is a crime against the language's health; but it is something else, much worse than either.

For where do we stop? If such words must be banned from dictionaries, should they not logically be banned from other books? Ought not *Cassell's* to scrutinize their novels, say, to see whether some low character is not talking in language that he will not find in *Cassell's* dictionary? And if you think that that is too fanciful an idea to be considered, consider this: there has already been libel action in this

country, one of the most disgraceful in recent years (which is saying a very great deal indeed), in which an undoubtedly reputable charity sued a publisher for a reference by one of the characters in a novel which suggested that members of the organization in question were making money out of it. The character in the book was, and was clearly shown to be, insane; nonetheless, the charity brought suit, and the publisher did not even defend the case.

That built a slippery slope if anything ever did; not long afterwards a hotel and restaurant guide brought a similarly infamous case, again for a reference, manifestly meant to be regarded as absurd, which cast an unjustified slur on that firm's integrity. I do not know whether Mr Shloimovitz wants to censor novels as well as dictionaries, whether he would wish publishers to excise anti-semitic language in the mouths of anti-semitic fictional characters, and I do not know whether if he would do this request. Until recently, he would have regarded any suggestion that they might be ludicrous. But until recently he would have regarded as no less ludicrous the suggestion that reputable publishing houses would accept such self-censorship as *Cassell's* has instituted in its *English Dictionary*. I hope no more British publishers will slither down this slope, and I hope that *Cassell's*, when it comes to a new edition, will think again. Mr Shloimovitz means well, without doubt; but, without doubt, he does ill.

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Father Dudko: the flower of Russia's 'religious spring'

Father Dimitri Dudko's fame as a preacher rests on his readiness to apply Christian teaching to every problem which worries Russians today—and in a land where the state sees itself as the all-sufficient provider, controversy is inevitable.

He spent eight and a half years in a labour camp and says: "I went in an unbeliever and in bad health. I came out a believer and in strong health". He achieved prominence through a series of "question-and-answer" sessions, unique for the Soviet Union, which he held in his Moscow church in 1973-74. State pressure quickly led to his being transferred outside the city.

In 1976, after recovering from a serious car accident in which there may have been KGB complicity, he was moved to Gorbachev, some miles from Moscow, where he was arrested on January 15. He is now in Lefortovo prison.

Here are some extracts from his preaching and conversations: "A religious spring has begun here. It's still weak, but it will come... I try to be with God, and I believe in victory. I believe with no doubts at all. If I perish physically because of this, the victory will just come more quickly."

"Question: Where do people believe better, in Russia or the West? Answer: Everyone wants people to believe better where he himself lives. I'm a Russian and I'd like to think the best of Russia. I know there are more believers in the West, but remembering Christ's words about the 'little flock' upon which He leans, I'd say that if you want to believe in Russia you've got to stand there next to Christ as He's nailed to the cross. In Russia today that's the only way you can believe... Although there aren't so many believers in Russia, there are enough to hoist unbelieving Russia on to their shoulders and place it at the foot of Christ's cross."

Most of Father Dudko's preaching has an utter simplicity which it is easy to scorn, until one actually tries to do as he says: "In order to follow Christ, one must first of all have a pure heart, without lusts and delusions. What lusts and delusions do we not have today?"

"A person is offended with someone and cannot forgive him, he constantly seeks out ways to vex his enemy. Another looks for ways to drink, to deceive his wife and friends; he has lost his will. Another seems

Compiled by Jane Ellis and the staff of Keston College, Kent, which researches on religion in communist countries.

Quotations are from *Our Hope* (slightly adapted) by Father Dimitri Dudko, St. Vladimir's Seminary Press, New York, 1977, a collection of sermons published by the Brotherhood of St. John of Pochaeve, Montreal, and private sources.

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Henry Stanhope, Defence Correspondent, on the welfare aspect of the Army's role in Rhodesia

Setting up a health service in the bush

Draped, Southern Rhodesia

Only a month ago Surgeon Lieutenant-Commander Paul Clarke was consultant physician at the Haslar naval hospital at Gosport, Hampshire. Today he operates from a tent at this isolated outpost near the border with Mozambique, the only qualified doctor thousands of sick Africans in the surrounding kraals have seen for several years.

His primary responsibility is the health of 50 British soldiers here at Foxtrot assembly area, one of the 14 locations where 21,000 members of the Patriotic Front have gathered under the Lancaster House agreement in preparation for next month's elections.

In addition he has to ensure the overall health of the 6,000 members of the Zimbabwe National Liberation Army (Zulu) at this, the biggest of all the assembly areas.

But like all the doctors and medical assistants flown out by the Ministry of Defence with the Commonwealth monitoring group, he is finding himself increasingly involved in caring for thousands of Africans whose own clinics have closed down

People concerned with animal welfare are being increasingly hard to, to the point where in some cases they have been accompanied by demonstrations and militant action. There are many facets of this subject, ranging from the implied cruelty of so-called factory farming, to animal experimentation, to the transport of farm animals and materials a day to deal with, reflecting the virulence of the local mosquitoes. Other diseases include tuberculosis, bilharzia, syphilis and scabies, which is common among children

that Lieutenant-Commander Clarke and his small team are

one by one because of the fighting in Southern Rhodesia.

Every morning, before the January temperature reaches its midday peak of more than 100°F in the shade, more than 200 chattering patients queue up before his tent on the edge of the bush to confront him with a variety of cases not normally seen at Gosport.

Only one in four belongs to the Patriotic Front, whose members are by and large fit young men. Fewer still are British soldiers, who have been vaccinated against yellow fever, smallpox, cholera, tetanus and typhoid before leaving Britain and whose standards of hygiene in this hostile terrain are carefully monitored.

Most are mothers and children, and some have trekked 20 miles through the bush on hearing that a doctor is in all the assembly areas.

There are about 50 cases of malaria a day to deal with, reflecting the virulence of the local mosquitoes. Other diseases include tuberculosis, bilharzia, syphilis and scabies, which is common among children

that Lieutenant-Commander Clarke and his small team are

planning to set up a special tent to deal with them.

So far cholera, which the doctors have dreaded most, has been kept away by assiduous purification of the water supplies, coupled with a campaign to persuade the Patriotic Front to drink the water issued to them and no other.

But the future is already concerning Lieutenant-Commander Clarke, aged 35, and fortunately

an expert in tropical medicine, as well as other members of the medical teams sent here.

The Army is already withdrawing some of its doctors because they are needed by their own battalions at home, and the four doctors and nine medical orderlies supplied for the group by the Navy are under similar pressures.

Next week the International Red Cross starts to assume responsibility for the health of the Patriotic Front, with the help of helicopter-borne medical teams. Service doctors, however, who have been saddened by the lack of provision for the isolated African villages, doubt if the Red Cross can cope with the amount of work that needs to be done.

The answer must ultimately lie with the Rhodesian authorities, but progress is slow, recovering the medical services lost during the war has so far been slow. Not that the Front's assembly areas, cared for by a mixed team of Irish Guards, Coldstream Guards and Royal Green Jackets, is a gloomy place.

The Zulus soldiers, as in other areas, are suspicious and unpredictable. But for most of the time relations between the British and themselves are cordial enough.

Today they were playing football against each other on a hard dusty pitch, while hundreds of Zulu supporters ringed the sidelines clapped and cheered. So for the British who was one much and Zulu the other—which perhaps is just as well.

Foxtrot is also unique in having a Zulu women's battalion of 500, living on its own in what passes for perfect propriety. The RAF recently delivered 300 pairs of frilly pink knickers for them, a gift which the guardsmen say, was warmly received.

pet owners at the expense of the wider requirements of research and the protection of industrial workers and consumers. There are also fears among scientists that they will be persecuted.

Some veterinarians believe that whatever evolves in the way of new legislation for both livestock production and animal experiments, all animals should have access to veterinary cover. They would like to see some provision for greater veterinary care and supervision.

While few would dispute that the attitude and training of the veterinarian is the best for this particular purpose, the veterinary profession is likely to meet opposition if it tries to expand its role beyond what others believe to be its qualifications. In the field of ethics, and on questions relating to the justification and execution of experiments, there is a greater body of experienced non-veterinary opinion.

Dr R. F. W. Goodwin
Veterinary Correspondent

Animal experiments: will the law go too far?

"This assumption lies behind our use of animals and their products as food, our exclusion of animals from their natural environment for the benefit of humans, our treatment of certain animals as pests or vermin, our preferential treatment of humans in the competition for scarce resources. If there were not some such general assumption, all infliction of pain on animals (except for their own good) would be cruelty."

Perhaps the two main welfare areas where matters are coming to the boil are intensive livestock practices and experiments. The most criticized features of modern farming are the confinement of sows in tether or stalls, the housing of poultry layers in cages (along with debeaking) and some aspects of intensive veal production.

Many farmers are concerned about these trends, and veterinarians working in the pig and poultry industries are sometimes uneasy at what they see.

It is urgent, therefore, to study these matters with an open mind, bringing together those with differing views. The Government has recently established the Farm Animal Welfare Council (which will be important in shaping future legislation) for this purpose but it has already run into trouble with the refusal of the RSPCA council to allow its chief veterinary officer and executive director to accept invitations to serve on it.

Legislation to cover animal experiments is now in the unusual position of being under discussion in both Houses of Parliament. Lord Hulme's Laboratory Animals Protection Bill received its second reading on October 25, and Mr Peter Fry's Protection of Animals (Scientific Purposes) Bill followed on November 16. The Council of Europe is debating the same subject and moving towards a European Convention.

It is likely that the Government would prefer to see the

nature of the final European recommendations before settling for new regulations at home to replace the Cruelty to Animals Act, 1876, which has stood the test of time remarkably well.

Of the two Bills, the one in the Commons seems to be causing the greater worry, especially to the Royal Society and other societies, the Agricultural and Medical Research Councils, the veterinary profession and the chemical industry.

This is because, as it stands, the critics maintain that it is excessively restrictive: it could become more difficult, for example, to collect information on animal disease in the field or to carry out field trials of new drugs on farms. The provisions requiring experiments to be justified could also raise problems of definition and administration, due to the scale of the overseeing involved.

Many have gained the impression that this Bill has paid attention to the views of some

pet owners at the expense of the wider requirements of research and the protection of industrial workers and consumers. There are also fears among scientists that they will be persecuted.

Ms is one of the excesses of the revolution and should be junked. Such pursuit of the inconsequential will only end in fears.

That's torn it, I suppose. But in the end I can't be hard on *les belles femmes*, even those who talk liberally. Underneath they're all lovable.

From Brussels, a charming handout extolling the virtues of bikes and mopeds: "The invention of the two wheeler has been offering him plenty of joyful hours which he still remembers today. Even in the age of Concorde the bike remains the little queen, the secret of eternal youth. We mention the moped with open frame, sometimes being called the automatic moped. Police forces of many big towns have chosen it. Reparation costs are low and it is a silent driver. It's easier learning how to drive because it doesn't go zigzagging as motorcars. School proprietors state: 'Dangerous? Less than a bike... the brakes are more efficient. A moped is as true-hearted as a dog, as sober as a camel'."

Trevor Fishlock



he adores. But for a man who is naturally outspoken and exuberant, with the gift of repartee, the Speaker's chair must have been a considerable discipline at times. Perhaps in the Lords we will be hearing

the word girl (sloppy sexist upset); that the word staggering may be applied only to drunks; that we must not write China Trade because it reminds the Chinese of the days when we were busy selling their opium.

But to return to the first point. The style book says that Ms is not an acceptable substitute in certain special circumstances:

This is a rallying point for commonsense. There are several reasons why Ms should be allowed no air. It is artificial, ugly, silly, means nothing and is rotten English.

Our style book is a small blue volume which guides us in our daily grappling with the language. I dare say some of my colleagues read a comforting page or two at bedtime.

Indeed, it is such an interesting little book that I would not be surprised if it had some commercial potential.

The latest supplement to it tells us that the right way to spell Rumania is Romania; that the term common law wife has no meaning in English law and should be avoided; that we

should take care in the use

HOME NEWS

Washington portrait sold to America is valued at £1.9m

By Geraldine Norman
A portrait of George Washington which has been in the Mountstuart family since the eighteenth century has been sold to the United States by Lord Bute.

Richard Feigen, the New York dealer who has been the agent for the sale, told me yesterday that his valuation of the picture was about \$4 million (£1.9 million). Only one painting has ever fetched more than that at auction, a Velasquez portrait sold at Christie's for £2,310,000.

The portrait, by the artist-diplomat, John Trumbull, is thought to have been painted in London when he was sent as secretary to the Jay Treaty commission in the 1790s, which naturally settled the way of American independence. He was given the job by Washington, whom he knew well and often painted.

Two large versions of this portrait are known and the existence of a third version in London is recorded in the 1790s. It was delivered to "Mr West" for engraving in 1797, but has been lost sight of. If it has not been destroyed it could still be in England.

The first version was painted by Trumbull in Philadelphia in 1792 and is now at Yale. It has been used for several series of United States stamps.

The painting arrived at the Feigen Gallery on Sunday and

its destination is not yet decided. Negotiations have been taking place over a possible donation to the White House, but another major institution is interested.

Lord Bute stipulated, according to Feigen, that he would sell only if assured that the painting went to a major national institution in the United States.

That was relatively difficult to arrange, in one stage when the painting itself was at Mount Stuart on the Isle of Rothesay, off the Scottish coast. So the deal has been arranged in two stages.

A Trumbull Trust was set up to look after its purchase and export from Britain to America: the next stage is to negotiate its acquisition by a suitable institution.

In a characteristically American style, the whole thing hangs on tax deductions. The painting has to be sold to suitable donors, who will then make a gift of it and set the value of their donation against tax.

Feigen admits that £4m. "I suggested that valuation level", he said, "taking the donor into account."

It might be bought by donors with suitable tax difficulties, lent to the White House for two years, then given at a current market valuation, which could be substantially higher than the purchase price.



Detail from Trumbull's painting of George Washington.

Ulster talks give way to 'parallel' conference

From Christopher Thomas
Belfast

The Northern Ireland constitutional conference broke for a five-day respite yesterday on an angry note. With no apparent prospect of breaking the impasse on power-sharing.

As the Democratic Unionists and the Alliance Party filed out of Parliament Buildings on Stormont Hill, Roman Catholic political leaders made their way to Stormont Castle a few hundred yards away. There, the Social Democratic and Labour Party delegates began the "parallel" conference on security, the EEC and the economy under the chairmanship of Mr Humphrey Atkins, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

The Democratic Unionists flatly refused to attend the second conference and the Alliance Party delegates decided to await authorization from the party executive next week.

The conference therefore belonged to the SDLP, which is taking the chance of forcing home every aspect of its claim for an Irish dimension to be included in the political remedy to be promulgated by the Government later in the year.

All subjects on the agenda are capable of being broadened into an all-Ireland issue, which has persuaded the SDLP to attempt to press the Irish dimension at the primary talks.

The only item discussed yesterday was security, which the SDLP presented under four headings: the political context; the current situation and policy; the legal system, with reference to emergency legislation and prisons, with special reference to the H-blocks.

Mr John Hume, SDLP leader, said that Mr Atkins had given an assurance that the result of both conferences would be reported simultaneously to the Cabinet.

The main conference yesterday continued to study the Alliance Party's formula for a new administration based on a committee system. It was a friendly, if tense, session.

Outside the atmosphere continued to worsen. The Rev Ian Paisley, Democratic Unionist leader, condemned the "parallel" talks, adding: "We are not going to any side-show linked to the idea of a united Ireland."

And his robust rejection of power-sharing at executive level brought a sharp report from Mr Seamus Mallon, SDLP deputy leader: "If Mr Paisley is saying majority rule is the only way he will look at the problem, I can see little hope for this conference."

The Official Unionists meanwhile are patiently waiting for the conference to collapse or become meaningless in order to justify their boycott.

He admits he was silly.

Mr Gerry Collins, the Irish Minister for Justice, announced in Dublin yesterday that he is preparing tough new legislation to strengthen the hand of the Republic's police.

Although he refused to be specific about the measures it is thought likely that the new legislation will drastically change the rules of evidence in court, including the right of a suspect to remain silent and the availability of bail.

He intends to present his proposals to the Dail during the next session.

Mr Collins told a press conference that changes in the criminal justice system were necessary to "remove some of the advantages" enjoyed by the Garda.

Lieutenant-Colonel Woodrow said afterwards: "This man was above average in every subject.

The Garda Commissioner, he said, had made certain recommendations. "These of course are confidential", Mr Collins

added.

The trend of a fall in crime had continued but that did not do away with the need for new measures.



Photograph by Harry Kerr

Signor Francesco Cossiga, the Italian Prime Minister, helps Mrs Thatcher when she had difficulty with the translation system earphones at their press conference in London yesterday.

Soldier in protest clash admonished

From Our Correspondent
Dublin

A soldier who was seen on television news broadcasts shouting at Sinn Fein marchers in Birmingham was admonished by his commanding officer yesterday after being found guilty of bringing the Army into disrepute.

Fusilier Stuart Smith-Blair was seen climbing a lamp post, shouting and gesticulating at the demonstrators on Sunday.

His sister, Linda, aged 21, was badly injured in Birmingham public house bombings by the Provisional IRA in 1974 in which 21 people died.

He intends to present his proposal to the Dail during the next session.

The commission's annual report on crime showed that 62,000 cases were committed during 1978 - a reduction of 15 per cent on the 1977 figure.

The report also showed that the Garda detection rate had increased by almost 2 per cent.

The trend of a fall in crime had continued but that did not do away with the need for new measures.

The PSNI has no objection to an arrangement between Mr Warren and Bovis, if it does not delay completion of the work.

Eire proposes to give police more powers

By John Young
Planning Reporter

Hopes of preserving parts of the historic "ship shops" in Portsmouth naval dockyard rest on an agreement being reached within the next week between the Government's Property Services Agency, Mr John Warren of the Southern Industrial History Museum, West Sussex, and Bovis, the demolition contractor.

The ship shops, believed to be the world's oldest arched iron buildings, are due to be replaced by new admiralty buildings. Mr Warren is confident that he can raise the £56,000 that Bovis says would be the extra cost of dismantling the parts of the structure that he wants for the museum.

He said he had consulted with the Attorney General and he would be pressing ahead as fast as possible with the new legislation, but it was up to the government to decide what it would consist of.

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Tory women call for rise in child benefits

By Our Social Services Correspondent

The Conservative Women's National Advisory Committee is urging the Chancellor of the Exchequer to raise child benefits in the Budget to stop the erosion of family income.

A working party formed by the committee points out in a statement today that the last Budget eroded the position of families with children compared with others by failing to increase child benefits after the rise last April.

Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for Social Services, announced last week that child benefits would not rise in April, when tax rates are expected to be altered. He said it made more sense to raise child benefits in November, when social security benefits are increased.

The Conservative women's committee says today that child benefits should be treated as a personal tax allowance, a view taken by both Mr Jenkin and Sir Geoffrey Howe, CC, Chancellor of the Exchequer, when they were opposition spokesman.

If they were so treated, the women's committee says child benefits could be increased proportionately at the same time as tax allowances for adults. That should be achieved by an increase in child benefits in 1980.

Terrorism Act man still held

A man detained at Sumburgh airport, Shetland, on Tuesday under the Prevention of Terrorism Act was still in custody yesterday, the police said. The man has not been named and no details have been given.

He was said to have arrived at Sumburgh by helicopter from a North Sea oil rig. The police said he was taken to the main Shetland police station at Lerwick.

Nurses 'should not prescribe pill'

By Staff Reporter

The British Medical Association last night criticised a recommendation by the Royal College of Nursing that some nurses should be able to prescribe oral contraceptives.

A report published yesterday by the working party of the college's Family Planning Forum said that trained family planning nurses should be allowed to prescribe oral contraceptives to women with no medical problems without reference to doctors.

Family planning nurses were already experienced in providing family planning help and in some clinics and surgeries proposed the method of contraceptives, the report said.

The report said: "We are

noting with concern that some nurses should be able to prescribe oral contraceptives.

Although it is emphasised that the prescription of oral contraceptives should not be undertaken by nurses unless they were sure that a safe and proper service to the public could be provided, it is suggested that there was no necessity for women to be examined by a doctor before it was decided that it was safe to give them the pill.

Nurses could be trained to undertake the initial examination for prescribing oral contraceptives and a seven-point procedure should be followed before any prescription was made.

That procedure included taking a medical history, measuring blood pressure and having some knowledge of pharmacology, the report said.

Man who killed sister over 30p gets life term

From Our Correspondent

Clifford John Clarke, aged 22, of Springfield Road, Rainhill, Merseyside, who admitted having killed his sister Deborah, aged 14, with a hammer because she pestered him for 30p, was found not guilty at Liverpool Crown Court yesterday of her murder but guilty of manslaughter on the ground of diminished responsibility.

Mr Justice Kehler Brown, sentencing him to life imprisonment, said it was in Mr Clarke's interest as well as that of the public that his sentence should be indeterminate rather than a fixed term that no one could ever serve.

"Although it sounds a dreadful sentence, it never means what it says", the judge added. "In the end your sentence will be determined by the Home Secretary on the advice of medical experts."

Mother tells of fight to save son buried by snowball

From Our Correspondent

Stephen Bowers, aged 10, of Wellington, Salop, yesterday fought for what seemed like an age in a vain attempt to revive his son, aged seven, after he had been buried under a snowball.

Mrs Olwen Bowers said she need the kiss of life and heart massage to try to save her son, Anthony, who had been brought to her on a sledge by playmates.

Mr Michael Gwynne, the coroner, was told how the boy's friends had kicked the 3 cwt snowball apart after it had rolled on top of him as they played in a field near their homes at Lawley Bank, Telford.

Stephen Bowers, aged 10, the dead boy's brother, of Scotch Road, Lawley Bank, said he was playing with Tony, and a friend, Ian Brice, aged 10, rolling

the snowballs down a sloping field.

They rolled one which became about 5ft high, and became stuck in a rut. Anthony moved in front to free it and the snowball rolled on to him, completely burying him.

Stephen Bowers added: "It was too heavy for Ian and me to roll off him, so we kicked it apart. I heard Tony moan, and put him on a sledge."

Mrs Bowers said: "I realised something was wrong. I have

we eventually got him out, and had medical training. I tried mouth-to-mouth resuscitation, and heart massage for what seemed like an age, and neighbours also helped me."

Recording a verdict of misadventure, Mr Gwynne said it was an "describable tragedy. No blame attached to anyone."

Medical evidence was given that the boy died from asphyxia.

Local authority chiefs attack Bill

By Christopher Warman

Local Government Correspondent

There is no case for the proposed local government legislation, local government chief executives conclude in a report on the Government's recently published Local Government Planning and Land (No 2) Bill.

The Society of Local Authority Chief Executives in collaboration with the Institute of Local Government Studies argue in a strongly critical appraisal that the proposals would lead to greater central control in spite of the Government's assertions that it wished to give councils greater freedom within an overall framework of control.

"The one point that can be made with certainty is that on the key issues in the Bill when ever a choice has had to be made, the Government has

chosen control and influence by central government over individual local authorities, rather than reliance on local accountability within a national framework."

That inevitably replaces local political control by new bureaucratic procedures", the report says.

Referring to proposals which would give closer control over local authority capital spending and introduce a new block grant system, the report claims that a Bill which states its intention to retain controls over local government "in practice does exactly the reverse. Minor relaxations are confounded by major proposals for new controls."

There was nothing in the

pattern of council spending to justify a move by the Government from a concern for the total of local government expenditure to a concern for the consequences

the position in particular authorities. The implications of the proposals meant that the Secretary of State for the Environment would have direct power over each council.

The introduction of a standard expenditure and standard rate poundage implied that individual spending and rate levels would be known by everyone, and if they were identified the Secretary of State would be answerable on individual cases.

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HOME NEWS

Most 11-year-olds cannot apply their basic mathematics in more complex settings

By Diana Geddes
Education Correspondent

Most 11-year-olds can do mathematics involving the more fundamental concepts and skills, and simple applications of them, according to a report published yesterday. But there is a sharp decline in performance when they try to apply that basic knowledge in more complex settings or unfamiliar contexts.

That is the conclusion of the first national survey of the performance in mathematics of 11-year-olds in England and Wales carried out by the Assessment of Performance Unit of the Department of Education and Science.

Written and practical tests were given to more than 15,000 children in about 1,000 maintained primary and independent schools during May, 1978.

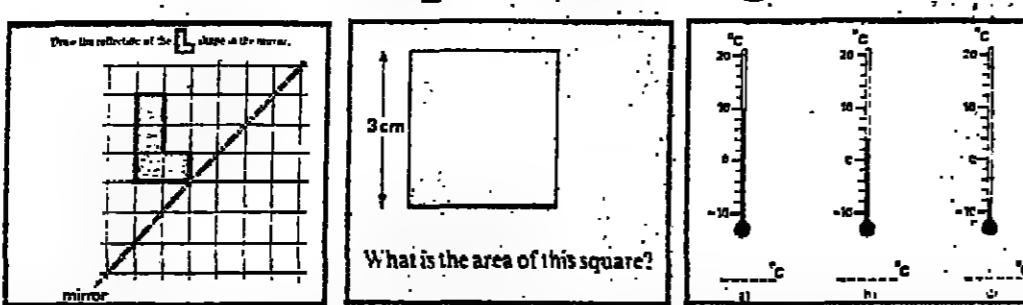
More tests were carried out among different children and schools last May, the results of which are not yet available.

The testing will be repeated each year.

Similar surveys have been made by the unit of the performance in mathematics of 13-year-olds and the language development of children aged 11 and 15. Assessments in science for pupils aged 11, 13 and 15 are due to begin this year. Modern languages will follow. All surveys will be done on an annual basis.

The aim of the first survey on 11-year-olds' mathematics is not to pronounce on whether standards in schools are lower or higher than they should be, but simply to present a picture of what children are doing, the report says. It leaves it to others to make value judgments.

It points out that the breadth of subject matter covered by the tests made it unlikely that any individual school would have taught all the material to



Three examples from the tests: Only 14 per cent of pupils were able to draw the L-shape reflection correctly; 37 per cent knew the area of the square; and the three thermometers (right) were read correctly by 83, 34, and 21 per cent respectively.

all its pupils. The percentage of pupils reported as having got an item right is based on the number who took the test and not on the number who had been taught the mathematics included in that item.

The following are sample test questions, with the proportion of children providing the correct answer in parentheses.

Put these decimals in order of size, smallest first: 0.7; 0.23; 0.1 (21%).

What number is 10 times 0.5? (34%).

The number which is one less than 2010 is ...? (64%).

$124 \times 25 = ?$ (38%).

$1 + \frac{1}{3} = ?$ (27%).

B stands for a number;

$B - 9 = 21$, so $B - 10 = ?$ (51%).

150 people are coming to see a school play; the chairs are arranged in rows of 15; how many rows will be needed? (65%).

In a traffic count, there are on average 25 cars to every 3 buses; 12 buses go by in 1 hour; about how many cars would pass in one hour? (38%).

Sometimes language was an added obstacle. Only 25 per cent got this question right: A batting average in cricket is found by dividing the number of runs scored by number of

times out. Fill in the following table:

Name No. of runs
Name No. of runs
Boycott 5 500

Pupils' grasp of the concept of a decimal place value was shown by several items to be tenuous, the report says. Fractions could be added by 60-70 per cent if their denominators were the same, but by fewer than 30 per cent if they were not.

Pupils in the counties tended to do better than those in the cities, but metropolitan areas had a higher proportion of poor children. Pupils living in affluent catchment areas in metropolitan authorities did not have significantly lower scores than their peers in county schools.

A comparison of the results achieved by girls and boys showed that the girls tended to score higher in computation (whole numbers and decimals), while the boys did better in tests involving length, area, volume, applications of number and rate and ratio. But differences between the sexes were only slight.

Mathematical Development, Primary survey report No. 1, Assessment of Performance Unit (Department of Education and Science, Welsh Office, Stationery Office, £5.)

Tory club is called elitist and hateful

By Ian Bradley

A club set up by the Paddington Conservative Association has been described as "elitist, arrogant and hateful" by one of those invited to join.

Two weeks ago, the association sent out about 200 letters to people who had supported the Conservative Party in Paddington inviting them to join the Right Club. The letters were signed by the Duke of Richmond and Gordon, the association's patron.

The object of the club, according to the letters, is to provide an opportunity for the MP for Paddington, Mr John Wheeler, and local councillors to maintain personal contact with influential constituents. Membership of the club is limited and by invitation only. The annual subscription is £100 and members will meet informally for drinks, probably twice a year.

One of those who received a letter, Mr Philip Barker, is a former supporter of the Conservative Party who now belongs to the Labour Party. He said yesterday that he was appalled by the exclusiveness of the club and the notion that "your views are only worth having if you can put down £100".

Mr Barker, who teaches at an English language school in Paddington, said that he had left the Conservative Party because he was disturbed by the housing policies of Westminster City Council.

He said that he was particularly worried by a reference in the Duke of Richmond's letter to the Labour Party as "one of our greatest enemies". He was also concerned that the views of only the richer members of the community were being given special consideration by the Government and Tory councillors.

The Duke of Richmond said: "There are such people as big businessmen who are in touch with a far wider public than the average constituent. I think it is an exceedingly good thing for these people to meet."

Mrs Shirley De Winter, the Conservative agent for Paddington, said that the club had been set up purely as an internal fund-raising venture.

Paddington is the fourth most marginal Conservative seat in the country. It was won by Mr Wheeler from Mr Arthur Lasham in the last election by 106 votes.

Fastnet rescue awards

The Royal National Life-boat Institution has awarded "Fastnet Certificates" to the crews of the lifeboats of British and Irish lifeboats on service during the Fastnet Race last August, when they saved 61 lives.

Oil executive had gag forced down throat, court told

Mr William Kuhn, aged 38, a United States oil executive, was threatened with a dart and had a gag forced down his throat with a stick after an armed gang burst into his home in Chiswick, London, the prosecution said at the Central Criminal Court yesterday.

The pamphlet states that the Church's attitude is not due to a reverence for life. It claims that the Church has often taken a position that is anti-life. For example, it forces women to die rather than have an abortion.

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Mr Kuhn was opening the case against Joseph McCormack, aged 25, a carpenter of Campana Road, Fulham, London, who denies taking part in the robbery on April 3 last year and causing grievous bodily harm with intent to Mr Kuhn, aged 36.

Before the trial began five people who admitted taking part in the robbery were sent home. Christopher Rynill, aged 32, unemployed, of Pentmore Estate, and

Simon Anderson, aged 20, unemployed, of Pentmore Estate, Lambeth, was jailed for five years after admitting robbery, allowing himself to be carried in a stolen vehicle and causing bodily harm to Mr Kuhn.

Michael Edwards, aged 17, of Blync Walk, Thamesmead Estate, Belvedere, London, was sent to borstal after admitting robbery, causing grievous bodily harm to Mr Kuhn.

Paul Rynill, aged 30, a driver of Heathrow Road, Stephen's Bush, London, admitted robbery and causing bodily harm to Mr Kuhn and was jailed for six years.

Eamon Anderson, aged 20, unemployed, of Pentmore Estate, Lambeth, was jailed for five years after admitting robbery, allowing himself to be carried in a stolen vehicle and causing bodily harm to Mr Kuhn.

Capital Radio, one of London's commercial stations, yesterday claimed to have "pipped" the BBC by acquiring from the Bernard Shaw estate the radio rights for six of his plays.

Capital will begin broadcasting six plays in April and will make them available to other independent stations.

"We understand the BBC were making enquiries but found from the Society of Authors, who manage the rights for the Shaw estate, that we had them," Capital said.

The plays are *Arms and the Man*, *Major Barbara*, *Candida*, *The Devil's Disciple*, *Androcles and the Lion* and *Pagliacci*.

Capital will be able to broadcast them for two years.

The Society of Authors pointed out that there were plenty more Shaw plays from which the BBC could choose.

RAF's Chinooks land today

The RAF will today receive the first of 33 Chinook medium-lift helicopters built in the United States. The first squadrons will enter service in mid-1981.

A report by the Comptroller and Auditor-General quotes the final price as \$242.25m.

The makers, Boeing-Vertol, "have undertaken to provide substantial offset percentage against the contract", the

Ninth century 'precedent' for Northern home rule

From John Cherrington
Manchester

An academic paper has advanced a theory that could be summed up by the phrase: "There never was an outer periphery" and an "outer periphery".

According to his theory, the inner core of up to an 80-mile radius from London takes in the City and the South-East; the outer core of up to 200 miles from the capital includes East Anglia, the Midlands and the mid-south or Wessex. Only those two cores, he maintains, constituted Egbert of Wessex's original England of the ninth century.

It is by Mr Michael Steed, a Manchester University lecturer, and is being widely circulated by the Campaign for the North organisation, which seeks regional government.

Mr Steed, who is a former Liberal Party parliamentary candidate and supports the campaign, sums up his arguments by saying: "England, Scotland and Wales are not equivalent entities; and the use of English, Scottish and Welsh as adjectives describing equivalent political, cultural or geographical phenomena muddles thinking."

"There is no English administrative state in the way that both Scotland and Wales have acquired partly autonomous administrations. There is no English office, nor Secretary of State for English Affairs."

Mr Steed prefers to view the division of the United Kingdom as a series of arcs centred on London, with inner and outer "cores" and an "inner per-

iphery" and an "outer periphery".

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Nuclear test
for
Mr Howell,
page 17

THE TIMES TUESDAY JANUARY 29 1980

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THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS

JPST 1/29/80

Taylor &
Woodrow
taking a constructive
approach to every
size of project

■ Stock markets
FT Ind 453.6 up 1.2
FT Gilt 67.64 down 0.14
■ Sterling
52,248.5 down 155 points
Index 71.6 down 0.3
■ Dollar
Index 85.1 up 0.2
■ Gold
\$635 an ounce down \$25
■ Money
3 month Sterling 17.1-17.1
3 month Euro-S 14.5-14.5
6 month Euro-S 14.5-14.5

IN BRIEF

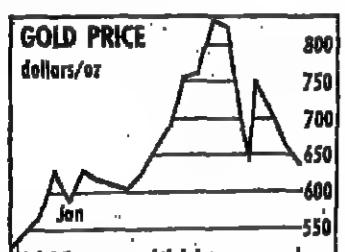
EEC action to curb US fibres unlikely

Britain's chance of getting firm action from the European Commission to help stem the flood of cheap synthetic fibre imports from the United States appears to have diminished.

Commissioning sources say Mr Roy Jenkins, the Commission president, agreed with President Carter in Washington last week that the EEC and the United States should avoid unilateral action that might provoke a trade war between the two, at least until February 18. On this date Mr Rueben Askew, America's special trade representative, visits Brussels to negotiate on trade problems between United States and the European Community.

It is now very doubtful whether the Commission will propose measures to curb the import of fibres at the next meeting of EEC trade ministers on February 4.

Gold falls further



The gold price dropped still further yesterday, although it picked up from its lowest levels by the end of the day. It closed at \$635 an ounce in London, down \$25 from Friday's close. The afternoon fixing, however, was lower at \$624 an ounce. Sterling slipped back to close at \$2,248. Later, closing price of gold on the New York Comex was \$627.50.

Dutton board changes

Mr Roland "Tiny" Rowland, the Lonrho chairman and Sir Hugh Fraser, who heads the House of Fraser group, have joined the board of Dutton-Forsyth. Lonrho made a successful £22.5m agreed bid for the Leyland and Rolls-Royce car distributor through its Scottish and Universal Investment subsidiary, last October.

£112,000 director

The highest paid director of Associated Newspapers Group, which owns the *Daily Mail*, was paid £12,650 in 1979 compared to £46,700 the previous year. Lord Rothermere, the chairman, received £33,705 in 1979.

Financial News, page 18

Loewy's £18.7m order

Loewy Robertson, a member of the Davy Corporation, has won an £18.7m turnkey contract to build a stainless steel plant at Middelburg, South Africa, against competition from West Germany, Japan and the United States.

New Wall St high

The New York Stock Exchange index recorded a new high of 65.96 yesterday, topping the previous record set in January 1973. Turnover increased 53,620,000 shares and the rose 2.39 to 87.50.

PRICE CHANGES

Rises

BP	6p to 342p
Camex Nlgs	3p to 40p
Dunlop Blids	3p to 61p
Eucalyptus Pulp	10p to 105p
Hampson Gold	10p to 300p

Falls

Distillers	2p to 207p
Dixon D.	10p to 101p
Dixor	3p to 30p
Henrys	6p to 90p
McClery L'Amie	1p to 10p

THE POUND

	Bank buys	Bank sells
Australia \$	2.10	2.03
Austria Sch	29.75	27.75
Belgium Fr	68.00	64.50
Canada \$	2.65	2.50
Denmark Kr	12.70	12.15
Finland Mark	8.70	8.34
France Fr	4.12	3.90
Germany Dm	100.00	95.00
Greece Dr	11.20	10.60
Hongkong \$	5	17.75
Italy Lira	1975.00	1875.00
Japan Yen	565.00	540.00
Netherlands Gld	4.53	4.30

Saudis raise oil price by \$2 in further effort to unify Opec charges

By Nicholas Hirst
Energy Correspondent

Saudi Arabia has raised the price of its oil from \$24 to \$26 a barrel in a second attempt to bring back a unified pricing structure to the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries.

A week before the December meeting of Opec, Saudi Arabia made its first attempt to establish a new unified price to replace the disorder which followed the cutbacks of production in Iran by raising the cost of its crude from \$18 to \$24 a barrel.

But it failed in its plan to persuade other Opec members to use \$24 as a base to calculate the value of the differentials for quality and freight costs on their own crudes, and the oil ministers left the meeting in Caracas, Venezuela, free to decide prices for themselves.

Saudi Arabia's new price jump once again puts the traditional benchmark "crude"—the Saudi Arabian light—at a level where the highest prices charged by Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Iraq and Venezuela can be justified on grounds of quality and freight.

But the Opec moderates will have to wait to see if the pricing hawks, Libya, Algeria and Iran, use the new rise as a pre-

text to increase their own crude prices before they know if the Saudi strategy has succeeded.

The effect on petrol prices will not be marked. United Kingdom companies taking Saudi Arabian crude—Esso, Mobil and Texaco—could possibly add 2p to a gallon of four star, but the main effect should be to even out the cost of petrol between stations owned by different groups in the same area.

Saudi Arabia's decision to increase prices, backdating the rise to January 1, comes as a surprise. At Caracas, Shaikh Ahmed Zaki Yamani, the country's oil minister, had said it was his intention to hold the \$24 level for as long as possible.

Middle East oil analysts say the decision stemmed from a combination of anger at the sharply higher fourth quarter profits reported over the last few days by members of the Aramco consortium of American companies, which lifts the greater part of Saudi Arabia's production of 91 million barrels a day, and a wish to offer a concrete act of friendship to the Saudi Arab friends at the Islamabad Islamic conference which has been considering the

invasion of Afghanistan by the Soviet Union.

But the timing is also propitious. Prices on the spot market have come back sharply from their higher levels. Crude oil of Saudi Arabian light quality is now selling for around \$26 a barrel against nearly \$40 a month ago. Iran has had difficulty getting rid of cargoes priced at \$38.50 and Oman, which is not a member of Opec, has found no takers for its production at similar prices.

At Caracas, Saudi Arabia had prepared to raise its prices to the \$26 level to bring unity to the market, if other members had fixed their crudes within a relatively narrow band. Libya and Algeria, however, insisted on maintaining a \$5.50 differential which was unacceptable to the Saudi delegation.

Libya and Algeria are now pricing their crudes at \$30 but are placing surcharges on their crudes to bring the total cost to between \$3 and \$5 more. Nigeria, however, which produces similar quality oil, has kept its price at \$30, a value reflected in the \$29.75 set for North Sea production by the British National Oil Corporation.

Financial Editor, page 17

Britain must accept high energy costs

By Our Economics Staff
"Britain and other countries should take the effects of the oil price rise "on the chin", according to Sir Geoffrey Howe, Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Speaking at a lunch for the Association of Economic Representatives in London yesterday, Sir Geoffrey said those countries which had accepted the oil price rise "on the chin" this year, there may be a case for some policy adjustments to offset this.

The OECD Secretary-General concentrated on the need to maintain and increase productivity in Britain and other countries. A big effort to improve profitability by holding down costs relative to prices was necessary, he said. Britain was suffering from weak profitability exacerbated by a strong pound.

He added it was also important to make energy savings over the medium term. Governments tended to avoid unpopular decisions to raise energy costs. The swift reaction of the oil price to changes in demand meant that countries had failed to reduce their energy use in the late 1970s when there was a temporary glut of oil, which made the next oil price rise all the more disruptive.

The Chancellor and Mr van Lennep both devoted some time to the problems of the developing countries in the light of recent oil price rises.

The Chancellor urged developing countries to borrow more from the International Monetary Fund, though many of them are unwilling to do so because of the strict conditions

imposed by the IMF before it lends money.

Mr Van Lennep commented that for developing countries to maintain their creditworthiness, it was essential to keep up exports. Industrialised countries should help in this, he said, by providing open markets and should resist the growing tide towards protectionism.

Referring to a recent call by the Confederation of British Industry for easier access to the developing countries, he said this could only be expected if the richer countries also opened up their markets.

It seems that sensitivity to the boycott is particularly strong in Britain because of your long history of trade with the Middle East", Mr Moshe Kobi, a leading member of the finance ministry's self-styled

"anti-boycott unit", explained.

It is understood that the new Israeli campaign will centre on attempts to convince individual companies and import chambers of commerce that the benefits of trading in the joint Israeli-Egyptian market are worth the risk of upsetting other Arab states still operating the boycott.

The end of Egypt's economic embargo began officially last Saturday when the formal normalization of relations between the two countries took place as set out in the Camp David agreements. Over the next few weeks, negotiations for a full trade agreement between Egypt and Israel are expected to take place.

Israel government officials claim that there are more British companies throughout the world now on the Arab blacklist in proportion to the size of its economy than any other country.

It seems that sensitivity to the boycott is particularly strong in Britain because of your long history of trade with the Middle East", Mr Moshe Kobi, a leading member of the finance ministry's self-styled

Split delays final draft of Wilson City report

By Andrew Goodrick-Clarke
Financial Editor

The chances of the Wilson Committee producing a unanimous report on the functioning of financial institutions received a setback during a weekend meeting of the committee in London.

It was the first time that the entire committee had seen a draft of the report as a whole, for which publication was planned by the end of April.

Not unexpectedly, wide differences of opinion on several key issues, which have been simmering for some time, surfaced at the meeting. No agreement on the final contents of the report was reached, and the committee decided to meet again next month.

It was expected that several points would need clarifying before a final draft could be sent to the printers, but the differences of opinion may be so wide as to make at least one minority report unavoidable.

Sir Harold Wilson, the committee's chairman, will try hard to avoid any last minute split. He is keenly aware that the value of the report, especially since it will be published under a Conservative government, would be damaged if it was accompanied by minority reports, particularly if they seemed to be taking political sides.

If the timetable, already delayed, is now met, the report—or reports—could be made by Mrs Thatcher's desk by mid-April. Since the report was commissioned by Downing Street, it will be up to the Prime Minister to take the decision to publish, though there seems little doubt that she will do so.

Implementation of the productivity plan has slowed after good progress earlier "because

PLA will close dock unless progress is made on productivity

By Michael Baily
Transport Correspondent

The Port of London will close one of its upper docks after all unless faster progress is made on improving productivity and reducing manpower, the PLA board under its new chairman, Mr Victor Paige, said yesterday.

It was the eighth new chairman of the PLA since the last one, Mr John Tisdall, left in November.

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Implementation of the productivity plan has slowed after good progress earlier "because

we have reached a crunch point", a PLA spokesman said. "It is an inter-union matter now; they are all waiting for each other to make sacrifices." Yesterday's statement was not directly connected with the state of present wage negotiations.

The board's 12 per cent offer has been rejected by both dockers' unions, with two one-day strikes so far. The Transport and General Workers' Union, and threats of a longer strike from the Stevedores. But that, together with the gathering effects of the steel strike on the fortunes of the port, clearly does not help.

Last year's loss was £12m grant towards redundancy costs.

Gross profits give a misleading picture of the state of company finances, the bulletin warns. Over the years 1974 to 1978, for every pound of gross profit received by companies in the United Kingdom, real profit was only 55p.

After paying tax, interest and dividends, companies were left with only 2p to reinvest in improving their businesses.

"The progress of the peace treaty offers considerable economic opportunities which we will be trying to explain to British businessmen", Mr Kobi said. "We will be outlining the advantages of trading with a combined market of over



\$305m Soviet deals hang fire in Italy

Three important contracts between Italian companies and the Soviet Union are reported to be in doubt because of the tougher stance adopted by Italy in the wake of the United States action over the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

The Foreign Trade ministry has been informed from Moscow that it is ready to conclude the contracts, provided credit facilities are available. These include one of \$150m (about £66m) for the provision of a chemical plant by Techint (Montedison Group); of \$85m for the sale by SNIA Viscosa of fibre manufacturing equipment; and of \$70m for the supply of plant and equipment by Pirelli.

The Italian government, however, has postponed a visit by a Soviet economic delegation to discuss raising the current credit line, nearly exhausted, from \$650m to \$1,000m of \$1,200m.

Meanwhile, negotiations are reported to be under way for the opening of a \$100m credit line by Isevier, a publicly owned credit institute, with the Bank of China to promote exports to China.

Stuttgart stoppage

IG Metall, the West German metal workers' union, called a stoppage yesterday at a Standard Electric Lorenz AG plant in Stuttgart. IG Metall want a 9.5 to 10 per cent wage increase. The factory offered 4.8 per cent.

China project decision

China is planning to build 25 per cent of facilities in the second phase of construction of the giant steelworks on the outskirts of Shanghai, according to Japan's Nippon Steel Corporation which has been operating the project. Peking authorities notified the company of their decision recently.

US patent law changes

Stirred by warnings of an "innovation lag" in industry, the United States Congress is starting to work seriously on changes in patent law intended to bring new products into the market-place.

Oil search off Jamaica

Norway is discussing the possibility of collaborating with the Jamaican government in exploring for oil off Jamaica's southern coast. Feasibility studies will begin next Monday.

Figures popular

The New York futures exchange has received 1,570 membership applications. If it accepted them all, it would be bigger than its parent, the New York Stock Exchange (1,366 members) and the Chicago Board of Trade (1,402).

China's loan policy

China is using funds borrowed from abroad mainly to boost production and exploit natural resources so it can expand exports and earn more foreign exchange, said Mr Bu Wing, the Bank of China president in Peking. He said: "We consider our ability to repay first when arranging foreign loans. We honour our commitments and repay loans on time."

\$20m Arab order

Telefonaktiebolaget LM Ericsson says in Stockholm it has received a contract worth around \$20m (nearly £5m) to supply and install digital telephone exchanges at various locations in the United Arab Emirates.

RATNERS (Jewellers) Limited

Extract from Interim Statement

- Group Profits 28% higher.
- Group Sales 17% higher.
- Interim Dividend increased by 20%.
- Ten branches opened in 9 months.
- Outcome for the year viewed with confidence (last year's pre-tax profits - £2,559,165).

Unaudited Interim Results Ended 6th October 1979

	1979	1978
Group Turnover	9,098,992	7,755,142
Group Trading Profit before Taxation	684,309	534,691
Profit on Sales of Property before taxation	71,762	233,340

Stores group hopes volume growth will cover price cuts on 300 items

Renewed pressure on retail margins

Some reawakening of the High Street price war, with the prospect of retailers' margins being cut back to 1978 levels, seems likely after the announcement yesterday by Leeds-based Asda Stores of a wide range of price cuts of between 5 per cent and 20 per cent.

Asda, part of Associated Dairies Group and Britain's largest supermarket operator, is already on average the most consistently cheapest selling multiple according to Audits of Great Britain (AGB).

Increased competition at a time when retail trade prospects look gloomy is only one of several new cost pressures on the multiples. Local authorities are growing much tougher about granting planning permission for the cheaper out-of-town sites, driving new retail development back to town centres or edge-of-town sites.

Mr Bob Muir, managing director of International Stores, the BAT Industries subsidiary, said yesterday that the chain's nine supermarkets would be expanded to 40 or more by the mid-1980s but none of the new stores would be out of town. A fully in-town development was probably twice as costly as one out of town, he added.

Asda, which operates 52 supermarkets with 10 more being built, has another 30 or more possible development sites in the pipeline but a third are in-town or edge-of-town. This was a much higher percentage of town sites than before, said Mr Peter Firmin-Williams, Asda's managing director.

Retailers also face either in the coming Budget or in 1981 the probable phasing out of stock appreciation relief, which has meant for several years non-payment of corporation tax.

However, Tesco Stores, whose finance director Mr Ralph Temple is campaigning for the construction part of retail development to be allowed industrial building tax allowances, expects no slow-



Mr Firmin-Williams: seeking major growth in Asda's share of the market.

ing down in any of the multiples' dash into supermarket growth.

Mr Temple has argued that higher costs will mean higher prices because of tight retail profit margins. But if Asda's wide-ranging reductions stimulate more price competition, it is margins that are likely to suffer.

Asda, which is cutting prices of 120 food items and 130 non-food, is bargaining on keeping its net margins steady by increasing its sales volume. A £1 million advertising campaign, including television commercials, is backing the campaign.

The group's store opening programme — it wants to develop 10 district centres a year — will also gear up the volume of sales. But the price-cutting campaign is intended to make a major contribution with no intention of making it a short-term promotion.

Mr Firmin-Williams said: "We do not believe in loss leaders. Any loss in profit margin will be more than recovered

from increased volume and the Asda market share should show a proportionate growth". Asda, at present holding a 7 per cent market share, was aiming at between 10 per cent and 12 per cent by 1985.

A perspective on the impact of the Asda price-cutting is that the group claims it will save its present customers £5m in a full year. But Tesco's Operation Checkout, which started the latest High Street price war more than two years ago, discounted its prices by around £20m, although on a trade accounting for about twice the present Asda market share.

Mr Firmin-Williams was at pains yesterday to play down the prospect of a major intensification of the price war. He did not think competitors would follow because they had already announced their own campaigns, such as the Discount 80 of J. Sainsbury.

But he agreed that the easing of retail margins seen during last year was likely to turn round. "We could see a return to 1978 margins", he said.

Sainsbury said yesterday it saw the Asda move as a response particularly to its own discount campaign. It also contested Asda's claim to being the cheapest selling multiple, claiming that AGB figures did not include some hypermarkets.

Sainsbury's own price survey showed it was more competitive than Asda in supermarkets and hypermarkets and only marginally behind in supermarkets, the company claimed. But most of Sainsbury outlets are supermarkets.

International Stores yesterday announced introduction of laser scanning of goods at checkouts at its Folkestone supermarket early in March, a system on which most major multiples are committed to trials. International is looking to the new system for greater efficiency and competitiveness.

Derek Harris

Lockheed research may herald 'all-electric' aircraft controls

Technology News

Aircraft could be using electric control systems in place of conventional hydraulic and pneumatic systems by the late 1980s as research at the Lockheed-Georgia Company in the United States proves successful.

It would represent the first major change in aircraft systems for over 50 years. Among the expected benefits are simplification in operation and weight-saving.

It is assumed that the aircraft would be powered by conventional jet engines using aviation fuel. The secondary power system, used, for example, for lowering the landing gear and providing the "muscle" for moving flying control surfaces such as elevator and rudder, would be based on electric generators and motors using "earth magnets" which are claimed to be much stronger than traditional magnets.

Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Iraq complained to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) last year that the accounts were blocked and called on the IMF to take action. At Egypt's request, the IMF last week delayed consideration of the Arab complaints until March.

Mr Mustafa Khalil, the Egyptian Prime Minister, denied that his country intended to keep the dispute which date back to the 1960s. He said:

"When someone comes and asks me to pay a certain sum of money, and I say I don't have it but give me a chance, that doesn't mean I am not going to pay it back."

Western diplomatic sources say \$30m from Iraq, \$800m from Kuwait and more than \$1,000m from Saudi Arabia is deposited in Egypt. Only Iraq and Kuwait are known to have asked for some or all of their debts returned.

Mr Gamal Nasser, Egypt's Minister of State, said the deposits were intended as economic aid and had been used for collateral to obtain loans and import emergency supplies.

On the basis of research to date, the company estimates that an "all-electric" medium-range transport aircraft would cost about £50m less to build, operate and maintain than a conventional one.

From Farabrough comes a new technique of radar imaging and special computer-based processing which has enabled the Royal Aircraft Establishment to produce high-quality "photographs" of parts of Britain from radar pictures taken by the United States National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Seasat-A satellite.

This is Coles' response to a growing demand in the instal-

lation and construction industries for equipment capable of this improved performance. In particular, this is a need to be able to install complicated computing, heating, and/or communications equipment in buildings several hundred feet high.

In the Octag design the normal rectangular cross-section is replaced by one that is octagonal. This outer shell is further strengthened by heavy metal trams within the octagonal cube which bears most of the stress as the crane is telescoped to its full extent.

In previous designs, the further the telescopic crane was extended the smaller the load it could take. Increasing the dimensions of the rectangular sections added further weight.

Using the new design, Coles claims that cranes can be 10 per cent lighter and can lift 30 per cent greater weights at distances 10 per cent more than anything previously achieved by conventional designs.

In research which began 23 years ago Coles simulated a range of hexagonal, trapezoidal and octagonal constructions on a computer-based design system before concluding that the octagonal layout was best.

Price of an Octag crane able to lift 155 tons will be about £250,000. Smaller models will also be produced in a bid to satisfy the crane hire market.

The Department of Industry's experiment was to measure the behaviour of the world's oceans. It is designed to use satellite users have specialized satellites could provide useful data to weather forecasters, shipping companies, safety organizations, fishery fleets, environmental protection managers and other groups.

A new crane design means that greater weights can be lifted to greater heights with a move crane boom. One proposed picture of the St Bride's Bay and Milford Haven area showed a surface resolution of 25 metres.

Main objective of the Seasat experiment was to measure the behaviour of the world's oceans. It is designed to use satellite users have specialized satellites could provide useful data to weather forecasters, shipping companies, safety organizations, fishery fleets, environmental protection managers and other groups.

This was announced recently by Dr Douglas Eyeons, the newly appointed director-general of the association. The CSA has over 170 member companies, representing over 80 per cent of the United Kingdom computing services industry.

Kenneth Owen and

Bill Johnstone

John Brown workers told to raise output to safeguard jobs

By Philip Robinson

The 16,000 workforce of one of Britain's major engineering companies will receive a letter from their chairman today, saying effectively that unless productivity improves jobs will be lost.

Mr John Mayhew-Sanders, who heads the international John Brown group, says that the company is "facing difficult times, if not a crisis".

Mr Mayhew-Sanders states that the men and women on the shop floor, in the office and in the field of installation are only half or a third as productive as their counterparts in Japan, Germany and the United States.

This is partly because management has sometimes failed to identify and implement available modern methods, he says, "but is overwhelmingly the result of what we will describe as a general, but not universal, sense of positive cooperation".

His letter adds: "If we fail to do something about this problem the inevitable consequence will be further loss of world markets for our products and contraction of our business and of course a loss of jobs."

The warning comes two days after the chairman announced that profits of his engineering group, which makes process plant, gas turbines and machine tools, could be £10 million down this year although not lower than £18m.

It is Mr Mayhew-Sanders's open letter to employees. He argues that the signs are clear that the trade recession of the past two years may bite deeper in the United Kingdom than elsewhere.



Mr Mayhew-Sanders: His company "facing difficult times".

"This adds up to the probability that orders for the sort of goods that we engineer and manufacture will be harder still to win than they are already."

"To get what business we can, we will have to be the most competitive by the best international standards."

Mr Mayhew-Sanders says the solutions "will not be easy to implement" and "we are already taking steps to this end".

John Brown's chief executives are already drawing up comprehensive plans for the improvement of productivity and competitiveness. The group hopes to implement these in the next few years.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

'Archaic' infrastructure service impeding economic growth

From the Director General, the Federation of Civil Engineering Contractors

Sir, While agreeing in general terms with your leader "Public borrowing must fall" (January 24), I should like to draw the attention of your readers to one particular aspect of public expenditure. That is the low level of capital investment made by successive governments in the country's basic infrastructure.

Over the past five years, the share of public expenditure put into capital investment has fallen from 20.1 per cent to 14.5 per cent. The decline in the proportion devoted to basic civil engineering expenditure is even more marked — from 5.1 per cent to 3.7 per cent.

This expenditure, on roads and bridges, water and sewerage services and other major capital items, provides an essential platform for the efficient operation of almost all other industries, both in the private and the public sector.

In France the percentage of GDP spent on infrastructure is 50 per cent higher than here and in monetary terms two and a half times our own spending.

The relative state of the German and French economies compared with this country can be attributed in no small measure to their investment.

Unfortunately, we have seen successive governments neglect this essential investment to a point where parts of our infrastructure are now so archaic and under-maintained as to create an impediment to the growth of the private sector upon which our national economic well-being depends.

In view of its commitment to revitalizing private manufacturing industry the Government must play its part in directing the necessary funds to this vital capital investment.

Yours faithfully,

DEREK GAULTIER, Director General, Federation of Civil Engineering Contractors.

Cowdray House, 6 Portugal Street, London WC2A 2HH.

January 24.

'Walter Mitty' economics

From Mr N. Woodfine.

Sir, I refer to Mr Terry Duffy's letter of January 23. His basic suggestions were three-fold:

(1) Increase the real purchasing power of workers;

(2) Increase the level of industrial production;

(3) Reduce or eliminate PAYE.

May I ask a question on each point?

(1) Other than increased productivity and profitability, how is this measure to be financed?

(2) An increase in production implies an ability to stock or an ability to sell. If the former, from whence is the surplus on cash flow to be generated? If the latter, where is the market for the product to be found?

(3) Reduction or abolition of

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Interest rates ahead of the Budget

The Bank of England had to provide the discount houses with very large assistance again yesterday and it looks like being another very tight week in money markets. Indeed, the present tightness could persist for several weeks yet given that the tax-paying season has still to run its full course.

What happens beyond that remains to be seen. The three obvious factors that will come into play are the trend in private sector loan demand, the need (or otherwise) for the authorities to activate fresh funding, and the way the authorities choose to play the scheduled recall of Special Deposits, due on February and March.

The less obvious factor lurking in the background is the possible trend in US rates. Are they simply taking a breather on their downward path, or are they about to test last autumn's peak? Certainly, the general expectation now seems to be that there will not even be a modest cut in MLR ahead of the Budget and, some would say, perhaps not even then.

What is interesting is whether the Chancellor would in fact announce a specific cut in MLR in the Budget speech. On the face of it, it would seem more sensible to express the hope that interest rates could be quickly lowered and then watch market reaction to the Budget before deciding precisely how much to cut MLR. The trouble here, of course, is that the change in Budget day leaves precious little time for the market to sort itself out before Thursday lunchtime, the traditional time for changing MLR. By waiting a whole week, however, the Chancellor could give us all an Easter egg.

Oil profits

Assessing the Saudi move

Just how beneficial access to cheaper Saudi Arabian crude has been for the Aramco partners at a time when rising oil prices have led to a dramatic improvement in product margins was amply reflected last week with full-year profits gains ranging from 55 per cent at Exxon to 106 per cent at Texaco.

The results from oil groups more closely tied to the United States market now appear to bear out the majors' contention that the lion's share of the improvement comes from overseas where refining margins have improved sharply from their depressed 1978 level.

Price controls in the United States have resulted in much more modest gains for United States-based companies. Union Oil of California, for example, managed only a 26 per cent gain when it reported last week and yesterday Shell Oil, the United States arm of the Royal Dutch group, announced a 38 per cent rise in net income to \$1,100m.

Better natural gas and crude oil prices pushed up the oil and gas contribution to income by almost a half to \$747m while after the previous year's drop of more than a quarter earnings from chemicals jumped \$73m to \$173m.

Meanwhile, Saudi Arabia's move yesterday to raise the price of its market crude from \$24 to \$26 a barrel coming at a time of weakness in spot markets and the difficulties some other Opec producers are having selling their output means that the crude price advantage the Aramco partners have been enjoying for so long will begin to disappear.

Not that sharp prices of the United States majors have been reflecting this competitive advantage in recent months as investors have worried about the effect of the windfall profits tax and the insecurity of Opec supplies. The majors will however continue to benefit from higher crude prices but it now looks as though the big gainers in the months to come from the Saudi move will be those with United States production which will become increasingly lucrative as oil prices are deregulated.

Accounting standards

The enforcement dilemma

Not all senior accountants are convinced that the apparent trend towards increasingly rigid reporting standards is in the interest either of the profession or the financial

community it is meant to serve. Over the past decade it has become the accepted wisdom that rule-making would solve the auditor's problem.

Strict standards of reporting and strict standards of auditing would prevent the collapse of apparently sound companies without warning, and where the odd mishap failed to be caught in an ever-tightening net, the auditor would be exposed for failing to do his job properly and under new disciplinary procedures, would be justly punished.

But is this the right approach? The inflation accounting debate has highlighted the uncertainty involved in assessing company profitability. The profession has been moving towards an acceptable system, but it is far from universally agreed that any method based on ED 24 will produce a definitive answer to the everlasting search for a definition of how profit should be measured.

The more complex the questions the Accounting Standards Committee tries to solve, whether it be leasing, currency or recognition of mineral reserves, the more difficult it becomes to gain general agreement that one method provides the right answer.

If only the standards could be enforced, the argument goes, then agreement could be reached rapidly. Of the big firms, Arthur Andersen personifies this view, believing that the profession moves too slowly and that a little of the big stick, possibly from government, would go a long way to solving the problems. But would that be a good idea? If there are genuinely differing methods of presenting figures, if rigid standards must always involve exceptions being made for companies which failed to fit into the general mould, should this not be reflected in the way standards are set and accounts drawn up?

At the moment where a technical breach of standard is made, an auditor is obliged to qualify his report. The Auditing Standards Committee has laid down how this should be done to reflect the weight of the qualification. Some auditors feel, nevertheless, that the importance of qualifications is being permanently damaged by over-frequent use and, as a result, the force of the audit process is being weakened.

This argument leads to the idea of a return to relying on the words of the 1948



Mr Tom Watts, Chairman of the Accounting Standards Committee: still working on a review of standards.

Companies Act that accounts should show a "true and fair view", that auditing is an art and not a science, and that the auditor should use his discretion to account his charge according to judgement and experience, using standards as a guideline but not as a definition of the only available truth.

There are clear attractions in this point of view. Standards can create as great distortions as the lack of them, but they can also be a great strength for an auditor hard pressed by a dominant chief executive determined to have his accounts expressed in the best available light.

Rigid standards that cannot be enforced, however, are the worst of all worlds. What accountants, industry and the City must decide, and the argument is far from over, is whether the answer is rigidity and enforcement, which on the present showing almost certainly means government involvement, or self-regulation and flexibility.

Source: White House Council of Economic Advisers.

It seemed unfair and beside the point while the outcome of Racal's bid was undecided, but the way in which the famous Decca company has finally lost its independence does raise in sharp focus a recurrent question of public interest.

The question is simply to whom is the controlling management of a company responsible. No doubt the outcome is sensible. If past experience is anything to go by, the shareholders of the company being taken over will have done better in the short and medium term by the deal than the shareholders of Racal; and the managerial and other problems of the merger will have been underestimated and will rumble on for a decade or more.

All that, however, though doubtless more important, is beside the point raised here; namely, in what sense is it right that the strategic decisions about the future of such a company as Decca should for years now have been taken by the septuagenarian, Sir Edward Lewis?

In reaching his decisions over the years to resist any takeover of Decca and now in accepting a takeover of the company, in what sense and to whom did he consider that he was discharging his responsibility as the overwhelmingly dominant force in the company's management?

The whole problem, of course, arises from the way in which the framework and legal context of the limited liability company has failed to change as rapidly

in the last hundred years as have other aspects of our society.

The model of nineteenth century capitalism and the great expansion of industry and commerce that happened with it was based on the acceptance that a company was owned by its shareholders; that it should be run in their enlightened self-interest; and that those in charge of running a company (if in fact divorced from being also its shareholders) were in general responsible to the long-term interests of the shareholders.

Of course, the model and the reality are increasingly diverged. But company law to this day is based on the total primacy of the interests of shareholders, even if the reality of the way in which limited companies are run bears little relationship to it.

In fact, today, almost the only companies run substantially on the basis of the old law and old model are those which are wholly owned subsidiaries of such companies. The management are not in doubt that they are responsible in a real and direct way for their stewardship to their shareholders.

The case of Decca is complicated by the fact that it was (and was bought from inside and outside recognized to be) the creation of one man, Sir Edward Lewis. It was floated in 1928. The controlling interest was bought at the bottom of the stock market depression by Sir Edward, then a young stockbroker.

Hugh Stephenson

A question of stewardship

With his steady nerve it survived until the war and with the military development of radar it became the company we know today. If ever a man could with justifiable pride say that a company was "his", it has been Sir Edward Lewis and Decca.

But at some stage in the development and growth of a company like Decca it becomes necessary to ask the question whether such a personal relationship to a company is appropriate. By the end Decca was a group with an annual turnover of not far short of £200m and employed some 12,000 people at home and overseas. This is too important a part of the British economy to be regarded as the disposable personal property of one individual.

Last year the Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators published a series of papers on this question of how and to whom company management should be responsible. In some ways the most interesting was by Mr John Jackson, a director of Philips. His message was directly relevant to the case of Decca.

His purpose was to argue in favour of the idea of supervisory boards in public companies. His reasoning was that there are two distinct functions in the running of a company—the management of it; and the preservation of "the legitimate interests of people who have a relationship with the enterprise". These are two distinct functions and it is better for corporate structures to recognize that they are different.

Those with a legitimate interest in a company are many and various; its shareholders, its employees, the localities where it operates, the consumer, the public at large, and so on. Yet balancing out these interests is not an appropriate part of the direct job of managing a company properly.

On the other hand, under existing arrangements most managements are in practice not responsible to anyone but themselves. For in the case of most companies, as Mr Jackson says, directors do not treat shareholders as if they were owners of the enterprise—just as owners of rights in relation to the enterprise—no.

It cannot be good discipline for any body, no matter how talented, to be in effect responsible to no one but himself. In private affairs it may not matter. But the direction of important public companies is not a private affair, even when voting control is secured in a single pair of hands. It is healthy to leave it to management to manage, but unhealthy if they are responsible only to an apathetic annual general meeting.

Mr Jackson's suggestion is that with a supervisory board, which must have no normal managerial functions, a structure is created to which the management of a company must give account of its stewardship. In the case of Decca, the effective executive authority and responsibility for supervising the management were in the same hands. The result has been the extinction of an independent Decca.

US budget: no help in the fight against inflation



Mr James McIntyre, White House budget office director: "The deficit in 1981 could be said to be the price we pay for honesty."

Washington The budget of the United States is an unwieldy beast, prone to get fat swiftly and in constant need of a trainer determined to force it on to a trim and bitter diet.

President Carter's talents as a trainer are once again found wanting. The budget books for the 1981 fiscal year, starting on October 1, are unbalanced and another deficit is in prospect.

The new budget will not help the fight against inflation. It will add to credit market pressures and it could launch a new era of big increases in public spending.

President Lyndon Johnson used deficit spending to fund the Vietnam war. Now President Carter, prompted by new United States-Soviet tensions, looks as if he too is taking this path to finance a massive military spending increase. President Johnson's strategy is partly to blame for today's rampant inflation, which is now running at more than 13 per cent.

Americans have come to equate budget deficits with a lack of governmental resolution in combating inflation. President Carter has helped to foster this belief. He promised during the 1976 election campaign to balance the budget. He has failed to keep his word and his four deficits make an estimated combined deficit total of about \$140,000m.

The Federal Reserve Board's moderately tight policies are by themselves insufficient to boost public confidence

in United States price stability. The central bank needs the support of a restrictive fiscal policy. Such support is not in evidence in the new budget programme so the bank's task of securing the value of the dollar at home and abroad is all the more difficult.

The \$400,000m of budget deficits run up between 1961 and 1980 have contributed to the unhealthy inflation which America faces. The remedy must in part include fiscal prudence and a more restrictive budget for the coming fiscal year.

It is justified on the basis of the forecasts from the White House. These foresee a 1 per cent real gdp decline during the 1980 calendar year and a 2.8 per cent gain in 1981. They also estimate 10.4 per cent inflation this year and 8.6 per cent next year.

The White House has resisted the temptation to paint the economic outlook in brighter colours than seem realistic as the election approaches. Mr James McIntyre, the budget office director, says of the deficit in 1981 "could be said to be the price we pay for honesty". If we predicted a 6.75 per cent unemployment rate (instead of close to 7.5 per cent), then we could have shown a balanced, or almost a balanced budget."

But given the problem of inflation, the Administration should have been willing to accept still more sluggish growth in 1981 and it should have secured at least a balanced budget. Even the projected 1981 deficit of close to \$16,000m may prove to be too optimistic.

The picture of public spending for the years ahead is one characterised by a boldly upward pointing curve, coloured in red. President Carter's administrative reforms and reorganization schemes, from

an estimate. The Administration all too often underestimates budget deficits—last year the President's estimate was off by more than \$10,000m.

The increased tensions between the United States and the Soviet Union may well add to outlays on defence, foreign assistance and agriculture. A deeper recession than anticipated will almost certainly lead to tax cuts and bigger unemployment relief programmes which will add more red ink to the balance sheet.

Added to that Congress is likely to complete legislation providing at least \$1,000m less in windfall profits taxes from oil companies than the new budget suggests.

The Government's borrowing requirements are far greater than the budget figures indicate. So-called "off-budget" expenses, mainly government loans for such purposes as rural electrification, gruendens and hospitals, are estimated to total over \$18,000m in the next fiscal year. The White House predicts the total public sector borrowing requirement will be \$44,300m for this calendar year and \$33,100m for 1981.

This borrowing will add to credit market pressures, to the central bank's money-tightening difficulties and to the problems of curbing public spending in future years.

Interest being paid by the Government on three-month Treasury bills is even higher than the 1979 average of 10 per cent compared with an average of 50 per cent between 1970 and 1978, or just 4 per cent in the 1960s and 2 per cent in the 1950s.

The picture of public spending for the years ahead is one characterised by a boldly upward pointing curve, coloured in red. President Carter's administrative reforms and reorganization schemes, from

Nuclear test for Mr Howell

Mr David Howell, Secretary of State for Energy, has a tough couple of days ahead of him. Today he faces the House of Commons in a full scale debate on gas prices. Tomorrow he appears before the newly formed parliamentary Select Committee for Energy to be questioned on his December policy statement and its implications for the nuclear programme.

The gas debate will, no doubt, engender much heat and not a little hot air as members of all parties vie with each other to be seen either as champions of the consumer or as fervent energy conservationists.

The meeting with the select committee will be a different, and arguably far more crucial affair. Mr Howell has a series of interlinked problems: first, despite a decade of wrangling over which type of reactor the United Kingdom should choose for its future programme, that choice can still not finally be made; second, because of a dearth of new power stations the nuclear industry is in dire straits; and finally, because the present trend for public opinion, mainly against nuclear power, the Government wishes to keep its statements on nuclear policy in as gentle and low a key as possible.

The select committee for its part will want to hear deeply, assessing whether the intended programme of building twelve or so power stations in ten years is possible, whether indeed it is necessary, and whether the Government is going to choose the best technology.

For the initial six weeks the committee has fixed itself a series of hearings which will provide widely conflicting evidence both on whether and how the nuclear programme should be conducted. Mr Howell will be followed next week by the Central Electricity Generating Board. Then comes the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority. After that, two hearings will be devoted to independent scientists and another will provide a platform for representatives of the anti-nuclear lobby.

Some nuclear engineers have got to the point where they care less which type of reactor is built, so long as building goes ahead. The select committee is certain to hear evidence that Britain is settling for the wrong design or the wrong licensee or the wrong technology. Some scientists may argue that the present type of reactor is doomed because of a potential uranium shortage developing within the next 40 years—the expected life time of a station

—and that Britain should move

straight to the commercial development and exploitation of the plutonium-based fast breeder reactor or the design of the prototype developed at Dounreay in Scotland.

That is almost certainly too big a technical jump. A paper published by the Science Policy Research Unit, however, casts doubt on the wisdom of basing a programme on PWR's own grounds of performance and suggests developing an alternative reactor system based on the Candu reactors pioneered in Canada.

Ironically the Candu, which performed the best of all reactors in the paper's survey of worldwide nuclear plant performance, uses a similar technology as the steam generating heavy water reactor, which at one time became Britain's chosen development, only to be killed off.

The first safety case must be approved and a public inquiry must be held. There is, therefore the chance that the PWR may never be built in this country.

Uncertainty thus remains over the future of the ordering programme. That uncertainty, in turn, has fed its way into the nuclear industry which splits roughly into builders of components for the second generation advanced gas cooled reactors (AGRs) and supporters of the PWR.

All major nuclear component makers are shareholders in the government-sponsored monopoly contractor, the National Nuclear Corporation. Mr Howell has promised its reorganisation but first he must choose a new chairman, and so far it has proved extremely difficult to find a man acceptable to all sides.

Some nuclear engineers have got to the point where they care less which type of reactor is built, so long as building goes ahead. The select committee is certain to hear evidence that Britain is settling for the wrong design or the wrong licensee or the wrong technology.

*Worldwide Nuclear-Plant Performance by John Surrey and Steve Thomas. Science Policy Research Unit occasional paper February 1980 (brief version in *Futures*, February 1980 published by IPC Business Press).

Nicholas Hirst

A colleague, concerned that a piece of urgent mail, posted in America, had apparently disappeared en route, discovered the reason when it arrived yesterday. It had been sent by surface mail from the New York office of Pan-Am.

Robert Mugabe is bad news for the Rhodesian stock market. Despite the black nationalist's deliberately moderate tone since his return to Salisbury, no mass nationalizations, no seizure of efficient white farms—the size of the rally that greeted him on Sunday set off a bout of selling.

The market had been fairly bullish until then. Prices had risen strongly at the Lancaster House conference approached its denouement: there has been some flattening out since, more due to a lack of buyers than to a surplus of sellers.

"I think everyone is being a little cautious at the moment," says Peter Humphrey (right), chairman of the Zimbabwe Rhodesia Stock Exchange. "People want to see what sort of government emerges after next month's elections before they start investing again."

The Rhodesian market must be one of the most politically orientated in the world with

Executive Gypsy, the fifteenth book by Cooper's near-same, Hollywood-born, Cary Cooper—but it can be grim.

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Exchange to act in accounts disputes

By Alison Mitchell
Companies which seriously flout accountancy standards could face a suspension of their listing in the stock market.

Although the Stock Exchange has in the past emphasized that it will not police the rules and regulations of other bodies, it has agreed that it would be prepared to take this step under certain circumstances.

Mr George Nissen, deputy chairman of the council, said yesterday that if shareholders were having the "wool pulled over their eyes, the listing of the company concerned could be suspended. However, he added that most auditors' qualifications did not fall into this area.

Mr Nissen has already written to Mr Tom Watts, chairman of the Accounting Standards Committee, offering his services to the Stock Exchange on any panel formed to adjudicate on accounting disputes. This review group, which

\$2.26m sale surplus for Associated Newspapers

By Our Financial Staff
Associated Newspapers Group, which includes the *Daily Mail* and the *London Evening News*, showed a £2.26m surplus on the sale of a leasehold property on the South Bank of the Thames last year.

The sale was completed after the group had obtained planning permission for the site. Lord Rothermere, Associated's chairman, said in the annual report:

Reorganization at the *Evening News* which included a reduction in manning levels, cost the group £4.4m during the 21 months to September 30, 1979. But Lord Rothermere pointed out that the changes were carried out with virtually no disruption. "In the recent troubled industrial climate of the industry both the *Evening News* and the *Daily Mail* have suffered little loss of production."

Earnings from the Argyll oil fields have considerably improved and three new wells now account for 51 per cent of total production, while total prices increased by 50 per cent during the 18 months under review. The oil exploration programme is continuing although drilling has been discontinued.

Provided newspaper advertising showed some decline towards the end of last September and Lord Rothermere warned that there could be a further falling off.

Stock markets

Oils make the running as gold slips again with a price drop of \$25 to \$635

Equities began the new account on a firm, but quiet note yesterday, as the troubles on the industrial front continued to cast a shadow.

Oils were a bright spot, aided by the enthusiasm surrounding the major United States giants which are currently mid-way through their reporting season.

As a result, most of the majors were marked higher at the resumption of dealings yesterday morning and interest soon spilled over into second liners and North Sea shares.

Duplo Industries rose 11p to 251p. Buyers expect profits this year to next August to reach nearly £5m against £3.7m last time. The recent chairman's statement was confident, and the group is on the acquisition trail.

Golds, on the other hand, were mostly easier as the bullion price retreated once again, dropping \$25 to \$635 an ounce.

Golds continued to experience light trading, while dealers still tried to overcome the indigencies brought about by the two new rep stocks last week.

In longs, gains of about £3 to £3 were reported, while at the shorter end, falls of about £3 were noted after some fluctuating business of little volume.

Prices after hours tended to

drift lower on the worsening situation in the steel dispute and reports that the water authority workers had rejected their latest offer. Therefore, the FT Index closed only 1.2 up at 453.6, after touching its high point of 4.0 up at 11 am.

Leading industrials were mostly firmer where changed, as in the case of ICI, reporting next month and with oil interests in the Ninfus Field, 4p higher at 380p. Fisons, however, slipped 2p to 287p while Reed International were nervous ahead of today's third-quarter figures, easing 1p to 149p, BAT, reporting on Wednesday, improved 5p to 270p.

Shares of Decca continued to move further in line with Racal's offer, rising 15p to 375p in the ordinary and 11p to 135p in the "A". Racal

also continued to draw interest, rising 4p to 231p, but Muirhead slipped 12p to 193p after its recent profits setback.

Oils were much firmer than of late, with investment interest spilling over from the United States and encouraged by the news that Saudi Arabia had increased its price of oil to \$26 a barrel. Among the majors BP rose 6p to 342p and the "new", that is to say, the remaining cash is to be paid on February 6, climbed 1p to 350p, 15p short of its issue price. Shell was 8p stronger at 350p and Ultramar advanced 14p to 448p.

Siemens was still sought, following recent bid speculation, and leapt a further 40p to 690p and CCP North Sea

was another firm spot, improving 3p to 325p. Gulf Stream Resources leapt 20p to 255p in anticipation of a drilling report. Among shares with North Sea interests, IC Gas jumped 18p to 683p and Yule Catto 10p to 128p.

Fears of another fierce price war began following an announcement by Associated Dairies, 6p lower at 182p and reporting this week that it intended to reduce prices of over 300 of its lines. This prompted falls of 1p in Sainsbury at 289p and 2p in Tesco at 681p.

Spurred by the Saudi price increase, just about every oil share went ahead yesterday. Among the buyers were brokers Scott, Goff, Hancock. This oil specialist will be holding an oil seminar at London's Tower hotel on Thursday.

Press comment gave rubbers a further boost with London and Sumatra 13p higher at 413p and HME 11p better at 194p. Banks were mostly firmer and properties closed mixed. Equity turnover on January 25 was £134,229m (17,958 bargain). Active stocks yesterday, according to the Exchange Telegraph, were RTZ, Burmese Premier, Shell, Consolidated Gold Fields, GEC, Racal, Lason, BP, ICI, Associated Dairies and Mitchell Cotts.

Latest results

Company	Turnover £m	Profits £m	Earnings per share	Div pence	Pay date	Year-to-date
Brentford Board (F)	2.51(4.5)	1.20(0.5b)	11.93p(6.85b)	—	21/3	(0.57)
Bridgford Group (F)	31.2(30.9)	0.71(0.9)	11.74p(6.81b)	1.2(1.0)	21/3	1.71(5.1)
Canty & New Twins (I)	—	0.55(0.28)	7.74p(4.81b)	0.3(0.2)	—	(0.65)
Cantors (I)	9.04(6.15)	0.15(0.34)	1.94(4.65)	0.82(0.82)	1/5	(2.29)
Ellis & Everard (I)	13.9(10.5)	0.83(0.54)	12.4(8.2)	2.5(2.25)	22/2	(8.35)
Estate Prop Inv (I)	—	0.91(0.68)	—	2.5(1.5)	—	(2.75)
Kellock Hides (F)	33.6(22.7)	0.15(0.07)	5.5(2.54)	0.5(0.5)	2/3	—
Neumann Trs (I)	17.44(11.15)	1.3(0.72)	3.0(1.48)	1.0(0.9)	3/3	—
Stirling Knit Gr (I)	4.91(5.0)	0.24(0.20)	4.18(3.5)	0.38(0.35)	31/3	—
Und Brit Secs (I)	—	2.9a(1.8a)	—	2.25(1.4)	—	—

Elsewhere in Business News are shown net of tax or pence per share on a gross basis. To establish gross multiply the net dividend by 1.428. Profits are shown pre-tax and earnings are net. a=gross income. b=loss.

Furness Withy stake

Mr Frank Warby, until recently chief executive of Euro-Canadian Shipholdings, who is making his home in Britain, has not yet given up his struggle to win representation of the position regarding the voting rights attached to the shares. The Department of Trade's position remains that they are to be frozen.

His private family company, Dolphin Investments has sold 52,500 shares, taking the share stake down to 10.99 per cent where it is only just above the 10 per cent stipulated by the Monopolies Commission.

KNOCKING BRITISH INDUSTRY JUST ISN'T CRICKET.



Commonplace though it may be to dismiss the British economy as having a lack-lustre performance, there are many examples of continuing success which deserve recognition.

For example, financial services, energy, data communication, leisure and retailing are all areas in which Britain still excels. As do many leading British industrial companies, amongst whom Hanson Trust's success story would be hard to better. At September 30, 1979, the pre-tax profit of Hanson Trust rose for the sixteenth successive year, increasing by 19% over 1978, to a record £31.2 million with cash resources of £43 million.

OPENING THE INNINGS

Hanson Trust has been built up carefully to reflect a business philosophy that has not changed in sixteen years. It was our intention to build on a good existing business, continue its growth and enlarge it when we were sure that its success merited support.

At the same time, as innovators, we have sought planned investment in new companies which meet our growth criteria. This willingness of Hanson Trust to make bold moves into new areas is well known and widely supported.

WHY WE SCORE HEAVILY

In the UK, Hanson Trust has built up a solid foundation of growth in basic straightforward industries. Butterley Building Materials, a market leader in facing bricks, is one excellent example of this commitment to basic industry. Adding this to the very best in management standards, applied throughout all our companies, has made Hanson Trust the outstandingly successful entity that it is today.

BUILDING A LONG INNINGS

Hanson Trust places great value on management professionalism. To succeed, a company needs excellent management, our commitment to which is consistently relentless.

Consistency, then, has always been a Hanson Trust byword. Consistent in aim, consistent in good management, consistent in development and consistent in growth of profit and earnings per share, year by year.

However, our success in Britain is only half the Hanson Trust story. For the full picture, and to see just what we have achieved in the USA since we went there in 1973, please send for a copy of our Annual Report to Hanson Trust, FREEPOST, London SW3 1BR (no stamp required) or telephone: (01) 589 7070.

After all, to ignore the other half of our success story just wouldn't be cricket.

Hanson Trust

The industrial management company where people are as valued as assets.

Poor Cavalier car supplies hit Braid's second half

By Our Financial Staff
Supply problems with the Cavalier car left a second-half shortfall at vehicle distributor Braid Group.

In the 12 months to September 30, the group made a pre-tax profit of £740,000—some 18 per cent down on the previous year's £900,000. Turnover rose by a third, from £31m to £41m, leaving pre-tax margins a point tighter at 1.8 per cent.

The main problem for the group was an inability to get cars and parts from their main supplier, Vauxhall, and the group report that another 1,000 Cavalier cars could have been sold in the year.

The nine-week strike at

Vauxhall, which began in September, has hit profits in the current year and, although there are some signs of recovery now, this side of the group has been hit badly.

Although borrowings, as a percentage of shareholders' funds, amounted to more than 80 per cent last year, the group are looking around for other Ford dealerships in an attempt to reduce dependence on one supplier. A final dividend of 1.7p gross a full-year total of 2.5p, an increase of 6 per cent on the previous year. Unchanged at 32p yesterday, the shares are trading at 2.7 times fully-taxed earnings and yield almost 8 per cent.

Ellis and Everard pleases with 53 pc interim rise

By Our Financial Staff
Ellis and Everard, the industrial chemicals distributor, exceeded expectations by boosting pre-tax profits 53 per cent at the half-way stage. The share price rose 7p to 130p after the announcement.

On turnover up by 32 per cent to £13.9m, pre-tax profits jumped from £54,000 to £835,000 in the six months to October 31, 1979.

Most of the improvement came from the chemical division where sales, at £13.5m, were 28 per cent ahead of the previous year. The swimming-pool division, formed after an acquisition last year, made a small contribution and turnover

RANTLODGE
Private investment company Rantlodge, which took over the troubled Nationwide Leisure, is to conduct an extraordinary general meeting on February 10. In a bid to remove its existing chairman and two of his fellow directors, Rantlodge is to appoint its nominees to the board. It is thought that the dispute stems from a failure to agree on compensation terms for the existing board members.

LOMBRO
Mr Graham Ferguson-Lacy, chairman of National Carbonising, says he is negotiating to buy 19 per cent of Lombro from Gulf Fisheries of Kuwait. At today's price it is worth £40.5m and would be bought on behalf of a Lacy-controlled private United States company, if terms are agreed.

NEEPSEND
Profits up from £11.5m to £13.6m, trading profits of Neepland almost doubled to £1.39m (against £722,000) in the half-year to September 30. Earnings per share, 3.03p (1.48p). Interim payment raised from 1.31p to 1.45p gross. Payment date: 28th February. Shareholders are confident that, subject to any dramatic change in industrial situation, level of profitability will be maintained in second half.

ESTATES PROPERTY
Pre-tax income of Estates Property Investment Co rose from £685,000 to £914,000 in the half-year to October 31. Interim payment, gross, up from 2.23p to 2.5p.

F. AND G. EUROTRUST
F. and G. Eurotrust has arranged a five-year, multi-currency loan facility of £1m with Williams and Glynn's Bank. Loan has been drawn initially for three months to £1m French francs and £10m yen.

Business appointments

New MD named at 3M

Mr Robert C. Oiley is the new managing director of 3M United Kingdom. He succeeds Mr Doug Osmon who has taken up a new assignment within the 3M International organization.

Mr E. E. Smith and Mr T. G. Harle have been appointed directors of J & A Scrimgeour.

Mr D. S. Hay, an agricultural division deputy chairman, has become ICI's general manager, commercial, with effect from March 1, 1980. He succeeds Mr R. C. Hampel whose appointment as chairman of paints division was announced recently.

Mr D. W. Gamlin has been appointed a director of Nobel's Explosives Company.

Mr Roger W. Britain becomes a new director of Touche, Remond & C. Co.

Mr R. C. Stevens has been appointed secretary of John Brown and Company.

Mr C. G. Rober has been appointed secretary of John Brown and Company.

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Int Systems
and Visco
in tentative
settlement

International Controls Corporation of America has agreed to compromise some of its differences with fugitive financier Mr Robert L. Visco.

The holding company's plan is subject to approval by a Federal Court, which is certain to weigh comments by the US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).

While the SEC's stance is not yet known, "the SEC has steadfastly maintained that nobody should deal with the devil and that Visco is the devil," said Mr William Ragsdale, Jr, vice-president, legal, of International Controls.

The corporation, which has interests in electrical products and other areas, formerly was the base for a financial empire from which Mr Visco is forever accused of "looting" as much as \$240m.

After gaining control of the company in the early 1960s Mr Visco used it to take over IOS Ltd, a manager of numerous offshore mutual funds and other financial institutions, most of which are at present being liquidated.

Mr Visco, who left the United States in 1973 and is at present in the Bahamas, is the target of at least five criminal indictments and various civil suits.

In papers filed last Friday with the United States Court for the Southern District of New York, International Controls outlined a compromise negotiated with a Visco-controlled company, Visco and Company.

International

NBNA down 8 pc

National Bank of North America has made an undistinguished start in its first year as a wholly owned subsidiary of National Westminster Bank. Net income of the New York bank purchased last April by NatWest dropped 8 per cent to \$17m in the year to December 1979 which compares unfavourably with the strong gains recently reported by most of the other United States banks.

Part of the reason for the downturn lies in the heavy spending NBNA has had to make in the automation and computerization fields as well as a sharp increase in salary costs. The bank has also been hit by a higher than average level of fixed rate lending and particularly hard hit by the increased cost of funds after last October's monetary package. NBNA is, however, starting to see some of the benefits of NatWest parent. The balance sheet has grown by almost a tenth to \$4,800m, deposits are up from \$3,300m to \$3,600m, loans jumped 22 per cent to \$3,100m and NatWest is talking enthusiastically about NBNA's "exploitability base" which will considerably strengthen its already large wholesale banking interests in the United States.

Options

Traded options began the week on a quiet note with total contracts dropping from Friday's figure of 617 to 612, K12 featured strongly, accounting for 180 trades, while the recent activity at Racal has drawn a lot more interest with 79 contracts recorded.

Today sees the introduction of the 240p February, May and August series in Racal following the recent rise in the share price following its bid for Deco.

Dealers reported quieter conditions in Traditional options

Bank Base Rates

Money Market Rates

Over-the-Counter Market

Sterling Spot and Forward

Foreign exchange report

EMS European Currency Rates

Gold

Euro-\$ Deposits

Authorized Units, Insurance & Offshore Funds

Wall Street

Oil, defence and corn sweetener issues led stock prices narrowly higher in heavy trading, as the New York Stock Exchange composite index closed at a record high of 55.56, topping the previous record set in January 1973.

The Dow Jones industrial average rose 2.39 to 785.50, as turnover quickened to 33,620,000 shares.

The NYSE began publishing the index in 1966 with an initial value of 50 and has calculated it back to 1938.

Experts said President Carter's budget message to Congress confirmed investors' expectations of increased defence spending.

The heavy turnover was indicative of continued heavy institutional demand for equities.

Gold closes down

New York, Jan 29.—GOLD closed in range \$625 to \$632, after opening at \$626.50 on Jan 26, 1979. Gold rose 1.50 to \$626.50 on Jan 27, 1979. Gold fell 1.50 to \$625.50 on Jan 28, 1979. Gold rose 1.50 to \$626.50 on Jan 29, 1979.

SILVER closed marginally up on the day, after opening at \$1.00 on Jan 26, 1979. Silver rose 0.01 to \$1.01 on Jan 27, 1979. Silver fell 0.01 to \$1.00 on Jan 28, 1979. Silver rose 0.01 to \$1.01 on Jan 29, 1979.

COTTON closed 1.50c up on the day, after opening at \$1.75 on Jan 26, 1979. Cotton rose 1.50c to \$1.76 on Jan 27, 1979. Cotton fell 1.50c to \$1.75 on Jan 28, 1979. Cotton rose 1.50c to \$1.76 on Jan 29, 1979.

CHICAGO IMMEDIATE COFFEE closed 1.50c up on the day, after opening at \$1.75 on Jan 26, 1979. Coffee rose 1.50c to \$1.76 on Jan 27, 1979. Coffee fell 1.50c to \$1.75 on Jan 28, 1979. Coffee rose 1.50c to \$1.76 on Jan 29, 1979.

CHICAGO SOYBEANS SOYBEAN closed 1.50c up on the day, after opening at \$1.75 on Jan 26, 1979. Soybean rose 1.50c to \$1.76 on Jan 27, 1979. Soybean fell 1.50c to \$1.75 on Jan 28, 1979. Soybean rose 1.50c to \$1.76 on Jan 29, 1979.

CHICAGO GRAINS WHEAT closed 1.50c up on the day, after opening at \$1.75 on Jan 26, 1979. Wheat rose 1.50c to \$1.76 on Jan 27, 1979. Wheat fell 1.50c to \$1.75 on Jan 28, 1979. Wheat rose 1.50c to \$1.76 on Jan 29, 1979.

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CHICAGO COFFEE COTTON closed 1.50c up on the day, after opening at \$1.75 on Jan 26, 1979. Cotton rose 1.50c to \$1

Salerooms and Antiques

Phillips

Tuesday, 29th January, 11 a.m.
FURNITURE, EASTERN CARPETS & WORKS OF ART

Tuesday, 29th January, 11 a.m.
IMPRESSIONIST & MODERN PICTURES & SCULPTURE

Illus. Catalogue £1.25 by post
Tuesday, 29th January, 2 p.m.
CLOCKS & WATCHES

Illus. Catalogue £1.25 by post



Aristide Maillol *Nue avec des Léopards*.
See Prints £1.25.

Wednesday, 30th January, 11 a.m.
ENGLISH & CONTINENTAL CERAMICS & GLASS, including good English Cameo Glass, English & Dutch Delft, good examples of early Worcester & Chelsea, early Meissen Figures & Wares

Illus. Catalogue £1.25 by post

Wednesday, 30th January, 12 noon
LEAD SOLDIERS

Illus. Catalogue £1.25 by post

Thursday, 31st January, 11 a.m.
ART NOUVEAU & DECORATIVE ARTS

Illus. Catalogue £1.25 by post

Thursday, 31st January, 11 a.m.
POSTAGE STAMPS: British Commonwealth

Illus. Catalogue £1.25 by post including stamp sale on 1st Feb.

Friday, 1st February, 11 a.m.
ENGLISH & CONTINENTAL SILVER & PLATE

Illus. Catalogue £1.25 by post

Friday, 1st February, 11 a.m.
POSTAGE STAMPS, Continued

Monday, 4th February, 11 a.m.
FURNITURE, EASTERN CARPETS & OBJECTS

Monday, 4th February, 11 a.m.
WATERCOLOURS

Monday, 4th February, 2 p.m.
PRINTS

Illus. Catalogue £1.25 by post
See illustration

Tuesday, 5th February, 11 a.m.
FURNITURE, EASTERN CARPETS & WORKS OF ART

Tuesday, 5th February, 1.30 p.m.
ANTIQUE & MODERN JEWELLERY

PHILLIPS WEST 2
10 SALEM ROAD, LONDON, W.2

Thursday, 31st January, 10 a.m.
FURNITURE, PORCELAIN & WORKS OF ART

Viewing: Wednesday 9 a.m.-7 p.m.

PHILLIPS MARYLEBONE
HAYES PLACE, LONDON, N.W.1

Friday, 1st February, 10 a.m.
FURNITURE, PORCELAIN & OBJECTS

Viewing: Thursday 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Phillips principal saleroom at
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England and Wales had wettest recorded spring since 1727

By John Grindley

Rainfall last year was rather higher than average. Nevertheless, it was the wettest year since 1966 over England and Wales, and since 1967 over Scotland and Northern Ireland. As usual, some marked seasonal decreases from average were apparent. Rainfall was about average in January and February over England and Wales, but Scotland and Northern Ireland were rather dry in those months. The spring and early summer were exceptionally wet in the whole of the United Kingdom. In England and Wales, there was more wetter March to May period than that of 1979 in the historical series extending back to 1727, although similar periods in 1947, 1818 and 1782 were almost as wet. Over Scotland generally, there has been one wetter March-May (in 1967) than the following 179 years since 1869. But in Northern Ireland there have been many wetter March to May periods this century.

In the second year running the United Kingdom had an exceptionally severe winter, possibly more severe than that of 1977-78, when much of the snow fell in three big blizzards. In 1978-79, the number of days of repeated snowfalls at one point in the winter, country, usually followed, at least over low ground in the southern half of Britain, by thaws, often gentle. The pattern in the South was similar to that of most of the severe winters, in 1946-47 and 1963, when snow cover was prolonged. A feature of the winter of 1978-79 was its length: heavy snow began to fall in the last week of March, and snow was occurring widely, as late as the first week in May.

The summer was generally unremarkable but this may be due to lack of sustained warmth rather than an excess of precipitation, which had less than average rainfall in the United Kingdom generally, although August was rather wet in most places. July in particular was dry in England and Wales, but rather plainer in southern Britain had to wait for wetter, with no measurable rainfall from June 26, the year's longest dry spell.

October to November was wet in northern Britain, especially in Northern Ireland, but was rather drier than average in the south. The winter was predominantly wet in England and Wales generally. The month was notable for one of the outstanding storms in the past 30 years. The storm was on Boxing Day and the following day, and it affected southern England. An unusually daily rainfall shows October 27 to be the wettest day since July 1969 in England and Wales generally and the third wettest in 30 years. The subsequent flooding was the worst since 1960 in many areas and millions of pounds were spent on damage in the flooding and associated gales.

The map shows the distribution of rainfall as a percentage of the annual average. The most notable features are the very high percentage values in Shetland and high values over the central Pennines, the Lake District and the north of Cumbria. Among the largest and smallest annual totals recorded were 435mm at Llywdian, on Snowdon and 525mm at Southend. More than 4000mm was recorded on Cheviot, in the North Pennines, and the North York Moors, and the 1978 annual values of 104mm in the flooding followed.

March snow heavy in Scotland

On the 21st, snow fell to a depth of 35cm in south-east Scotland and Edinburgh was isolated for a time. The 24th was one of the wettest days of the year, with 175mm of rain. The 25th brought precipitation mainly as rain, sleet, or snow occurred on the 28th in Southern Uplands, north-east England, East Anglia and the Midlands (more than 50mm), water was recorded on Cheviot, in the North Pennines, and the North York Moors, and the 29th saw extensive flooding followed.

General values of rainfall are given in the following table:

	1978	1941-1970	Difference	per cent of average
mm	mm	mm	mm	per cent of average 1941-70
England	523	537	+ 56	110
Wales	1462	1385	+ 167	108
Scotland	1001	912	+ 89	111
Northern Ireland	1137	1095	+ 42	104

Annual totals for representative stations are given below:

	mm	per cent of average 1941-70
London (St James's)	718	117
Merseyside	587	102
Worthing	777	108
Bristol	581	107
Exeter	1251	105
Penzance	1625	113
Birmingham	1238	105
Nottingham	1252	109
Bradford	979	113
Hull	778	120
Middlesbrough	955	99
Sheffield	1177	108
Cardiff	870	103
Conwy	1274	103
Aberystwyth	1264	103
Douglas	1073	84
Exdalemuir	1648	109
Edinburgh	960	98
Perth	1037	114
Glasgow	1087	102
Islay (Cathal)	143	111
Falkland	287	92
Inverness	824	102
Montrose	1578	108
(Portree)	1211	111
Stornoway	823	102
Wick	1525	100
Leeds	1141	120
London (Battersea)	822	93

Monthly rainfall is shown in the following table in mm and as a percentage of the month.

	England and Wales	Scotland	Northern Ireland	
mm	mm	mm	mm	
January	65	98	518	26
February	65	100	39	37
March	125	212	153	57
April	70	97	102	82
May	184	102	112	94
June	41	62	77	54
July	94	47	99	51
August	39	47	115	78
September	39	47	115	75
October	75	84	125	102
November	197	197	195	183
December	169	177	175	170

The spell of wintry weather which began in the last week of December, 1976, continued throughout January with occasional milder spells and the pattern was repeated for much of the winter. A general thaw cleared most of the snow cover due to the blizzard of the old year, but there were further heavy snowfalls on January 9 and 10 in northern Britain, on January 16 and 17, with rain turning to snow as it moved south, on the 19th in an area extending from southern England through north-east England across south-west Scotland to Northern Ireland, and on the 25th, 26th, 27th and 28th in southern Britain. With high pressure to the north of Britain and low to the south, much of February's worst weather was in the South.

The 4th to 20th was mainly dry, with generally small amounts of winter precipitation. The 13th was a winter day in Northern Ireland, when 15mm, mainly sleet, was recorded in the Belfast area. The period from 6th to 15th was unbroken in the South with frequent snowfall, particularly on the 9th in the South-west. Possibly the worst blizzard of the winter, with regard to disruption to the community, was on February 15, when strong east-westerly winds caused deep drifting in eastern England, including the east Midlands, East Anglia, Lincolnshire, north-east England, and the eastern slopes of the Pennines. Many roads and railways, particularly in Norfolk, were cut off for several days and some cities on the eastern Pennine flanks were isolated.



Legal Appointments

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P04 ER.074-ER.970 (Inclusive)
(Comparable award pending)

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In particular, there is a pending local inquiry into the Borough Plan, and the successful candidate will be expected to make a significant contribution to the preparation for the inquiry. The job will also involve membership of interdisciplinary teams engaged in this field, and attendance at evening committee meetings.

Haringey offers generous relocation expenses and flexible working hours. The Department will shortly be moving to new offices close to Wood Green Underground Station.

Application forms and Job Description are obtainable from Borough Secretariat (Ref LLS), Civic Centre, High Road, Wood Green, London N22 4LE (Tel. 888 7282 Ext 53) and should be returned by Monday, 25th February, 1980.

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£9,700-£10,450 p.a.

This unusual and interesting appointment, which will provide varied experience in a newly established post, is being re-advertised and is offered by a major Educational Charity in Bedford, an attractive riverside County Town with exceptional facilities.

The Trust is the Governing Body of four independent Schools, BEDFORD HIGH, BEDFORD MORN, ALICE HANCOCK, with 4,000 pupils and 49 Almshouses. It is endowed with estates in Central London and Bedford.

The Solicitor will advise the Governor and the Clerk on all the legal aspects of the Trust's affairs (including property transactions and contracts of employment), and will undertake some personnel and administrative responsibilities in the Office.

Starting date: within 2-3 months of the offer of appointment. Generous contributory pension scheme. Fee concessions at Harpur Trust Schools.

Particulars and application form (returnable by February 15th—but previous candidates need only indicate whether they wish their applications to be re-considered) obtainable from the undersigned.

A. JAMES, B.A., Clerk of the Trust
Harpur Trust Offices, 101 Harpur Centre, BEDFORD

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Needed to spread the load of (1) the contentious side of a very busy seven-partner Westminster practice, dealing with substantial work. Solicitors of potential partnership calibre preferred but on the non-contentious side, a general conveyancer would be considered. Salary commensurate with experience and the times.

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All advertisements are subject to the conditions of acceptance, a copy of which is available on request.

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Construction of a new and prestigious marina will commence in 1980.

The Project Manager will take complete control of all aspects of the project from square one.

He must have had previous experience of large projects preferably overseas and not limited to the actual construction work, since he will be fully capable of co-ordinating the many types of technology and skills which will be essential to the successful completion of this very important addition to Hongkong's amenities.

The project is expected to occupy 2 years but if desired could offer the opportunity thereafter of a permanent appointment as part of the management team.

Remuneration will be about HK\$145,000 p.a. (about £13,000) and terms of service include free furnished accommodation — company car — medical benefits — passages paid for family, etc. Current maximum rate of income tax in Hongkong is 15 per cent.

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Marine engineer required for a yacht running Mediterranean. Single man, 30's, some experience preferred.

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On Valentine's Day let The Times make something of your sweet nothings.

On February 14th it's not only what you say, but how you say it that matters.

And, when you think about it, a Valentine Card says very little indeed.

Could such a missive ever convey the feelings of one whose very being is in the grips of an all-consuming passion?

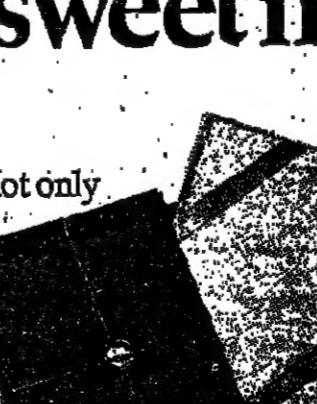
We think not.

Worse still, the custom of omitting one's name could lead to some confusion. And, unthinkable though it may be, even lead your sweetheart into the arms of another.

Heaven forbid.

The answer is to place a message in the Valentine's page of The Times.

Don't be shy. You'll be in the company



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Commonwealth

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PLATE

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POSTAGE STAMPS, Continued

Monday, 4th February, 11 a.m.
FURNITURE, EASTERN CARPETS &
OBJECTS

Monday, 4th February, 11 a.m.
WATERCOLOURS

Monday, 4th February, 2 p.m.
PRINTS

Illus. Catalogue 39p by post

See Illustration

Tuesday, 5th February, 11 a.m.
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Tuesday, 5th February, 1.30 p.m.
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Viewing: Wednesday 9 a.m.-7 p.m.

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BIDS INVITED FOR INTERNATIONAL TENDER TO CONSTRUCT PUBLIC ZOOLOGICAL, BOTANICAL AND RECREATIONAL GARDENS

The Municipality of Tripoli, in the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, invites international companies specialised in all aspects of the construction of public gardens, to submit their bids in respect of an invitation for a international tender to build the Zoological Gardens in the Al-Nass Forest, Tripoli. This work entails a zoological garden, botanical gardens, a recreational and sports complex; the nature of the works imply that the tenderer shall have broad experience in the execution of such projects and shall have an established capability in the field of business and similar contracts in general terms.

BIDS
Tenders must be submitted as an integrated project on a fixed price basis as per the contract terms, in accordance with the conditions, specifications, bill of quantities and other tender documents.
A tender shall be considered to be in force and incapable of withdrawal for a period of six months with effect from the last date set for the submission of bids.
The Municipality shall have the right to accept or refuse any bid without the need to provide its reasons therefore or furnish any sum in compensation.

SPECIFICATIONS
A copy of the tender specification may be obtained from the following, for a sum of 2,000.000 (two thousand) Libyan dinars, non returnable.
Tripoli Municipality, Tripoli,
Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya,
5 St. James Square, London, SW1.

BID DEPOSITS
Each bid is to be accompanied by a preliminary bond in the form of 1% of the value of the tender; it may be submitted in cash to the Municipality exchequer, or by bank cheque, or by letter of guarantee issued by a bank operating in the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya. A letter of guarantee must be valid for at least three months beyond the currency period of the tender.

CLOSING DATE
A tender must be placed in an envelope sealed with red wax, inscribed thereon Tripoli Municipality, Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, and deposited at the tenders office prior to the date set for the opening of envelopes, which is: 24 February 1980, twelve noon (8/3/1389 A.H.). This time and day is the last date for acceptances of bids. If it should happen that this day is an official holiday, the set date shall be that immediately following, and at the same place and time previously indicated.

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PERSONAL CHOICE



Broadcasting Guide

Edited by Peter Davallé

TELEVISION

BBC 1

9.35 am For Schools, Colleges. 9.35 Out of the Past (war 30); 10.16 9.55 Maths-in-a-Box (part 4); 10.16 10.30 Play School. 10.30 Substitute Units 11-13 English (play for discussion); 11.00 Watch (Robinson Crusoe); 11.17 Television Club (a school is done); 11.30 Design by Five (Anne Nightingale's Design); 12.05 General Studies: what use are degrees? 12.30 Closedschool at 12.45 pm News and weather.

1.00 Pebble Mill at One: Your financial and medical questions answered by a trio of experts.

1.45 Triumph: The story of Mr. Plant and the Painter (r).

2.00 You and Me: For the very young, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 (r).

2.14 For Schools, Colleges. 2.14 Encounter: Germany (school); 3.05 Julius Caesar: part 3 of the BBC's Julius Caesar series; 3.30 The Story of Keith Mitchell: Closedown at 3.45. 3.35 Dechra Starlet: Welsh story. Great Day for Up. Illustrations by Quentin Blake.

4.20 Yogi Bear: Cartoon. Space 1.

4.25 Jarrydian: Geoffrey Hinsliff continues reading Geoffrey Kilkenny's Joe Burckshaw's Progress. (See Personal Choice.)

BBC 2

10.05 am Sisters and Brothers: For the unisonous (r). Closedown at 10.30.

11.00 Play School: Same as BBC 1, 3.55.

11.25 Tricky Away: How to spell those tricky words in that letter which you always get wrong. 11.40 It's a Great Life: How older people live, from Michael Parkinson. 12.00 Dilemma: Professor Bernard Williams poses the question: are animals ever wrong? (r).

1.30 Hills of Emilia: How British newscasts in the 1930s treated the rearmament issue (r).

3.30 The Living City: Sociology series. Social deviants (r). Close down at 3.55.

THAMES

9.30 am For Schools. Experiment: Biology. 9.45 See One Thing Done (r); 10.04 Reading with Lenny; 10.16 Work (theory of location); 10.35 English (authorship); 11.05 Leaping (maths); 11.22 Good Health; 11.39 The Land (Brecon Beacons).

12.00 Simon in the Land of Chalk Drawing: Stories told by Michael Crichton (r).

12.10 pm Pipkin: Monster in the Cellar: Bartley Hare story.

12.30 The Sullivans: Tales of an Australian family. Why John Sullivan (Andrew McFarlane) takes to drink.

1.20 Thames News.

1.30 Airport Champs: Scottish TV series with Ronald Forfar in the title role. Today: the pilot's dilemma over a Belfast flight.

2.00 After Noon Plus: Billy Graham interview, live from Graham's Worldwide Alliance: Comedy thriller with Julia Foster and John Stride. "Heartbeats" in the house of mystery.

3.45 Three Little Words: Harlech TV quiz game. With Doris Moss.

4.15 Get Together: Pop music show, with The Tiges, Zane Griff, The Jags and The Buggles.

4.40 Animal Magic: With Johnny Morris, Gemini the baby sea lion and the results of the "unusual pet" contest. The winner: Jeremy Fortune. Included among his pets is an alligator lizard, a snake and a red-sided African zebra.

5.00 John Craven's Newsround: Junior newscast which adults will find entertaining, too.

5.15 Grange Hill: Comprehensive school serial. An immigrant father thinks the school is a better place for his daughter.

5.20 News: with Peter Woods. 5.55 Nationwide.

5.50 Robber: Faye Robertson presents this profile of Dame Josephine Barnes, the 139th-and-first woman-president of the British Medical Association. She is 67, and an international authority on obstetrics and gynaecology.

7.20 The Rockford Files: A former prostitute (Rita Moreno), now estranged, falls in love with Rockford (James Garner). But his son (Noah Beery) is unhappy about it.

8.15 Johnny Be Good: Profile of the man who is called the father of rock and roll—32-year-old Chuck Berry.

9.00 News: with Kenneth Baker MP and Sara Morrison.

12.07 am Weather.

9.05 News Briefing.

9.10 Farming Today.

9.30, 9.45 News.

7.30, 8.30 Headlines.

8.35 Yesterday in Parliament.

9.00 News.

9.05 Tuesday Call.

10.00 News.

10.05 In Britain Now.

10.30 Royal Service.

11.00 The Woodchop Horse (r).

11.00 News.

11.05 Play: Cross Current.

12.00 News.

12.02 pm You and Yours.

12.20 Down Your Way.

12.55 Weather.

1.00 The World at One.

1.30 Archers.

2.00 News.

2.02 Woman's Hour.

3.00 News.

3.02 Listen With Mother.

3.15 Sons and Lovers (r).

4.10 Bookshelf.

4.15 Stories: Madame Zillinsky and the King of Finland.

5.00 PM.

5.35 Weather.

6.00 News.

6.30 Just a Minute (r).

7.00 News.

7.05 The Archers.

7.20 The Reckless Years (r).

8.05 In Touch.

8.30 The Manipulators.

9.15 From Our Own Correspondent.

9.30 Kaleidoscope.

10.30 The World Tonight.

11.00 A Book at Bedtime.

11.15 Financial World Tonight.

12.00 News.

12.15 am-12.30 Weather.

VHF

6.50 am Regional news, weather.

6.55-10.30 am For Schools.

6.55-10.30 pm School: Voix de France: Deutsch für die Oberstufe; The World of Work; Playtime.

10.45-12.00 pm For Schools: La France Aujourd'hui; Let's Move!; Music Club; Introducing Science.

9.00 News: with Kenneth Kendall.

9.25 Flesh and Blood: Part 4 of this saga of a Yorkshire family by John Finch. Tonight: a strike at the family's cement works. With Bill Fraser. Thora Hird (see Personal Choice).

9.30 Newsround: Junior newscast which adults will find entertaining, too.

9.45 Grange Hill: Comprehensive school serial. An immigrant father thinks the school is a better place for his daughter.

10.15 Johnny Be Good: Profile of the man who is called the father of rock and roll—32-year-old Chuck Berry.

11.00 News headlines.

11.12 Question Time: Robin Day's guests are Lord Attlee, Denis Healey, Kenneth Baker MP and Sara Morrison.

12.07 am Weather.

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"... and now also the axe is
fallen on the tree which
brought not forth good fruit
from the root thereof."—St. Matthew 3: 10.

BIRTHS

BARLOW.—On January 26th, to
Giles and Alan, from John and
Liz (nee Main) and Julian
EMLER.—On January 26th, 1980,
to John and Linda, from Linda
Terry and Steve, a son, 10
(Liam), a sister, 10.

GRETTON.—On January 25th,
1980, to John and Georgina, a
son (Andrew), a daughter, 10

HAWTHORN.—On January 25th,
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LOWSON.—On January 25th,
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